

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

**Iverson has
serious fun, leads
East's victory**

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All-Stars Allen Iverson (3) and Rashard Lewis



**Back from Iraq,
Vilseck GIs return
to heroes' welcome**

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**Oscar winner
has good shot
at second statue**

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Actress Hilary Swank

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2005

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Bush urges Europe to move past Iraq split

President encourages unity to create democratic reforms for Mideast

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Gordon's third Daytona 500 win is sweetest yet

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Jeff Gordon

NASCAR driver Jeff Gordon spins his tires along the infield grass after winning the Daytona 500 Sunday afternoon at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.

AP photos

Italy sees cloudy future from smoking ban

BY SANDRA JONTZ
AND KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — If anything, life since Italy's ban on indoor smoking has gotten better for Chief Petty Officer — and smoker — Joe Campbell.

He likes walking into restaurants in Naples, where the aromas of pizzas and pasta waft versus the stale stench of tobacco.

But what he appreciates most is that his wife and two children aren't subjected to the vice of others, including himself, said Campbell, a Seabee stationed at Naval Support Activity Naples.

On Jan. 10, the Italian government imposed one of Europe's toughest smoking bans and prohibited folks from lighting up in all indoor public places that do not have designated smoking areas with their own ventilation systems.

The change felt around Italy was not considered drastic on American bases throughout the country, which have banned smoking inside public buildings for years.

Smokers face fines from \$36 to \$363 if caught smoking in banned areas, which

Owners, servicemembers cope with change

pre-ban included pubs, restaurants, trains, movie theaters, grocery stores, offices, and even hospital corridors and stairwells, to name a few.

Owners or managers who fail to stop it or to call police face a maximum fine of \$2,904.

In the first two weeks after the ban, Alfonso Trincone, owner of Madigan's Irish Pub in Pozzuoli, a popular Naples hangout for Americans and British living in the area, said he saw a decrease of 90 percent of his clientele.

"I was seriously damaged," he said. On a good night, he rakes between 1,500 euros and 2,000 euros.

Tallies for the first few weekends, his most popular nights, topped a mere 150 euros, he said.

"I was nearly ruined."

Slowly, and thankfully he said, customers are returning.

"They just know to go outside to smoke.

And I think that's OK with them," Trincone said.

Vic Bonaventura, owner of Vic's Bar and Grill in Gaeta said he invested "quite a lot of money" (though wouldn't say how much) for outdoor heaters to accommodate his patrons.

"People just go outside and are smoking underneath the heaters. It didn't hurt my business," he said of the ban.

Chief Petty Officer David Duerksen, a nonsmoker for four weeks, said he disagrees with the ban in pub establishments that serve alcohol, saying people who frequent bars do so knowing smokers frequent such establishments.

Two civilian employees at Caserma Edlerle in Vicenza said they noticed a change almost immediately after the mid-January ban.

"I was in the mall and about to light up when I realized that no one else was smoking," said Greg Thacher. "So I didn't light up."

"I was there on Sunday, the last day before it kicked off and there was just a cloud [of smoke] in there," said Carl Smith, a nonsmoker.

Thacher said he doesn't much mind going out in the cold to light up.

"It doesn't bother me. I was in the States just six months ago, so I'm used to it."

Airman 1st Class Marion Scott, a nonsmoker stationed at Aviano Air Base, said going to a club or out to eat now is a nicer experience.

"I like it," he said of the ban. "It's a lot better. I hate going outside and smelling like cigarette smoke."

Airman 1st Class Thomas Wakeman is a smoker, but he says that being in public indoors now is nicer as well. "The air is different. It's fresher."

He said it's chilly in northern Italy, though.

"Right now, it's cold outside so [smoking] is kind of a pain."

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@mail.estrines.osd.mil

E-mail Kent Harris at: harrisk@mail.estrines.osd.mil



PHOTOS BY RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

Left: Family members cheer, wave flags as 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment soldiers march into the Hilltop Sports Center on Sunday in Vilseck, Germany. About 200 soldiers from 2-63 Armor returned from Iraq in two waves, with more expected to arrive Monday. Above: 1st Sgt. Andrew Richard kisses wife Cathy as 2-year-old Adam looks on.

Germany unit receives heroes' welcome home

Soldiers return to Vilseck community after deployment to Iraq

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

VILSECK, Germany — About 200 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment soldiers returned from Iraq on Sunday in two waves to a post decorated with hundreds of signs welcoming the troops home.

Nearly every fence, light post and traffic sign had a greeting attached.

There was no question that the soldiers had arrived at Rose Barracks as military police vehicles with lights flashing and sirens blaring escorted the buses through the post.

Gathered at the Hilltop Sports Center, families waited for the soldiers to turn in their weapons and equipment before they marched into the gym to cheers and waving flags.

"I'm excited; it's hard to believe he's ac-

tually home," said Lynn Thomas, of husband, Staff Sgt. James Thomas, as she waited for him. "He's actually here, on this post somewhere."

"On one hand it seems like he wasn't gone that long, but on the other it seems like he's been gone forever."

Her kids, James and Annie, were restless as they waited out the final moments of the deployment.

"I can't believe he's finally home," James said. "Now I have someone to ride my mountain bike with."

The Thomases said the deployment was difficult, but they adjusted to the separation. "It was really hard at first, but then I sort of got used to it," Annie said.

Thomas had been deployed to Kosovo just before heading to Iraq, and spent 23 of the past 28 months deployed, Lynn Thomas said.

Some of the family members sitting in the bleachers were only there for support. Petra Kulp's husband, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Kulp, the 2-63 Armor battalion commander, was due to return on Monday.

"I can wait one more day," Kulp said. "I just want to him to get here safe."

After a year of separation, Kulp said it was good to see the soldiers and families reunited. "When you look at the children with their parent who has been deployed, it's just wonderful," she said. "It's the best thing that has happened all year."

Ethan Trevino, 2, will finally get to play with his dad. "(Capt. Brandon Trevino) said the first thing he wants to do when he gets home is play with his son," said Bess Trevino, as she waited for the soldiers to march into the gym. "I'm so anxious and excited. He's here, and he is safe."

E-mail Rick Emert at: emertr@mail.estrines.osd.mil



Staff Sgt. James Thomas talks to his family, from left, wife Lynn, son James and daughter Annie in Vilseck, Germany. Thomas returned home from Iraq on Sunday.

Sailors now part of foe they once fought

BY JASON CHUDY
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Times sure have changed since Petty Officers 1st Class Vadim Gudin and Sergey Kruglov first entered military service.

Gudin, a former Soviet Army tank driver, was trained to defend against a seaborne invasion by enemy naval forces. Kruglov, who did six years as a naval academy cadet, trained to fight as a navigator on a submarine.

In each case, they were training to fight the U.S. Navy.

Now, both Russian natives are serving in that same U.S. Navy at Naval Support Activity Naples: Gudin as a security patrolman and Kruglov as the assistant leading petty officer in the chief master-at-arms office.

Gudin started his military career as a conscript in the Soviet Army between 1986 and 1988, serving in the Russian Far East. Kruglov did his mandatory service as a cadet at the high engineering marine academy in the Black Sea port of Odessa between 1981 and 1987. There, he earned a reserve lieutenant's commission and a degree as a merchant mariner.

"When you graduated you got two degrees — a military and a civilian degree," he explained.

Kruglov joined a merchant ship in the Soviet Far East and later another back in the Black Sea, eventually rising to second mate before the collapse of the Soviet Union. After that fall, Kruglov worked for Greek and German shipping companies before "winning" a U.S. green card in 1995. He moved from Odessa to San Francisco that July, but his stay there didn't last long.

"In September I was already in Chicago for boot camp," he said. Though this was

his first enlistment, it wasn't his first encounter with the U.S. Navy.

He had seen two American warships while serving as a cadet — a frigate in the Persian Gulf and an aircraft carrier in the Suez Canal.

"The frigate tried to stop our boat," he said about the 1984 encounter in which his ship was delivering weapons to Iraq during its war with Iran. "I can see it (the frigate) sending a (flashing light) signal to our boat," Kruglov said. "Our captain said, 'No, our Russian boat will never stop.'"

"I am thinking about it, and now I am in the U.S. military," he said.

Both said that the conscripted Soviet military and all-volunteer U.S. force are worlds apart.

"The whole idea is different," Gudin said. "It's like a prison (in the Soviet Army). You were there against your will. 'Here, I volunteered,' he said. 'I liked the idea of serving my new country.'"

Gudin first enlisted in 1993, serving six years as a machinery repairman in San Francisco and Everett, Wash., before leaving active duty for the Reserve.

He was recalled to active duty in Oct. 2001 while working as a computer programmer.

"I was ripped off my computer desk to guard a submarine base," he said jokingly.

He's since decided to remain on active duty and also changed jobs to become a master-at-arms, the Navy's security police.

"I'm in it for the global war on terrorism," he said.

Kruglov said he'll also be making the U.S. Navy a career, having already served on two warships.

"I like being on the bridge (of a ship)," he said. "You see all the sunrises and sunsets, the waves and the wind."

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudy@mail.starsandstripes.com



Top: Petty Officers 1st Class Sergey Kruglov, left, and Vadim Gudin, both with the Naval Support Activity in Naples, Italy, hold up photos from when they served in the Soviet military in the 1980s.

JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Left: Gudin had his first military experience as a soldier in the Soviet Army. Above: Kruglov spent six years as a cadet at an engineering academy in the Soviet Union.

Photos special to Stars and Stripes

Guardsmen brings Iraqi boy to U.S. as foster child

The Associated Press

MAUSTON, Wis. — Capt. Scott Southworth took his soldiers to a Baghdad orphanage in 2003 to befriend the children, and a small boy with cerebral palsy immediately returned the favor, crawling across the floor to sit next to him.

More than a year later, Southworth has made a return trip to Iraq and brought 11-year-old Ala'a to Mauston, where Southworth now works as Juneau County district attorney.

Physicians, social workers and some politicians in Wisconsin all came together to help Southworth bring his new foster son home.

Southworth, 32, who is single, knew the alternative for Ala'a was life in a government orphanage with little chance of adequate medical care or an education.

Iraqi law won't allow Southworth to adopt Ala'a, but he was able to bring the boy to Wisconsin last month under a "humanitarian parole" that lets him make sure the boy gets medical care and goes to school. Humanitarian parole lasts a year, and Southworth says it can be extended or other immigration possibilities will be available.



Capt. Scott Southworth, 32, carries his foster son Ala'a in their apartment in Mauston, Wis. Southworth first met Ala'a, who has cerebral palsy, when he took his soldiers to a Baghdad orphanage in 2003.

"He will be staying with me," said Southworth, who served in Iraq from June 2003 to July 2004

as head of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd Military Police Company.

Ala'a understands both Arabic and English, but must use a wheelchair and can't fully use his arms.

Southworth and his fellow soldiers visited the Mother Teresa Orphanage in Baghdad a few times a week for several months.

"Ala'a really adopted me," he said. "By the time we left that first day, he was trying to take off my watch or to do anything he could to keep me from leaving the orphanage."

He learned the orphanage would eventually transfer Ala'a to a government facility for older children and adults.

"One of the Iraqi doctors told me that if Ala'a went there, there was a good chance his life was over — and that wasn't just because he'd be warehoused in a room; he meant his life might be 'over,'" Southworth said.

When he returned home last summer, he launched his campaign for district attorney and his effort to bring Ala'a home.

"Humanitarian parole is very

rare," he said. "I don't know if there has been another case like this."

Ala'a isn't eligible for Southworth's health insurance, but Wisconsin doctors have promised to provide free care. Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton offered to help with letters of recommendation, as did Sen. Russ Feingold and Rep.

Mark Green.

Southworth started his new job Jan. 3 as district attorney in Mauston, about 60 miles northwest of Madison. A few weeks later, he learned the U.S. Department of Homeland Security had approved the humanitarian

parole, and he soon was on his way to Iraq.

Ala'a was waiting for him at the Baghdad airport. Now he is enrolled in middle school, and already has two friends.

"I think I've been the lucky one," Southworth said. "He's making my life more fulfilling. I think, maybe, my lifestyle used to be focused on me. Now I have someone else to focus on."

"I think I've been the lucky one. ... He's making my life more fulfilling."

Capt. Scott Southworth

3 GIs killed, 8 wounded in Iraq bombing

By JAMIE TARABAY
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Three U.S. soldiers were killed in Iraq on Monday when a roadside bomb detonated as they were evacuating a fellow soldier, the U.S. military said.

Eight soldiers also were wounded when the roadside bomb exploded. The soldiers were evacuating a soldier who'd been injured when his convoy collided with a civilian vehicle, the U.S. command said in a statement. The location of the accident was not given.

U.S. Marines broke down doors and raided houses Monday on the second day of an offensive aimed at cracking down on insurgent activity in several troubled cities west of Baghdad.

In Ramadi, U.S. Marines fanned out across the city, setting up checkpoints, searching cars and sealing off areas to prevent people from entering or leaving as they carried out raids. The operation came one day after launching the operation and putting in place a nighttime curfew.

Iraqi Maj. Abdul Karim al-Faraj said troops detained a prominent Sunni Muslim sheik, Mohammed Nasir Ali al-Jibiy, who heads the al-Bu'fayri tribe, along with 12 of his relatives. The new operation was under way in several other Euphrates River cities in Anbar, including Heet, Baghdad, Haditha and the provincial capital Ramadi, the military said.

The raids occurred as Shiites of the winning United Iraqi Alliance met in Baghdad to hash out a final reconstruction candidate for the newly elected 275-member National Assembly.

Ahmad Chalabi, a secularist once known for his ties to Washington, and Ibrahim al-Jaafari, the conservative interim vice president, will face off in a secret ballot to determine who will be



U.S. soldiers remove a damaged Humvee at the scene of a blast which overturned a Humvee in the Dora area of Baghdad on Monday.

the Shiite majority's choice for Iraqi prime minister, officials said Monday.

The clergy-backed United Iraqi Alliance, which holds most of the seats in the 275-member National Assembly, had for days been unable to decide between Chalabi, 58, and al-Jaafari, the president of the Islamic Dawa Party.

Chalabi spokesman Haidar al-Moussawi said a meeting of alliance representatives ended by naming two nominees who will vie for the nomination in a secret ballot.

He added that the most powerful man in predominantly Shiite Iraq — Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani — had met with interim Finance Minister Abdel

Abdul-Mahdi in the southern city of Najaf and gave him backing for whatever decision the alliance takes.

The Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the main group making up the alliance, had hoped to avoid a secret ballot, and tried to convince Chalabi to resign, some of its senior officials said.

"We had hoped that we would agree on one person without the secret ballot, because we fear that such a vote will cause divisions inside the alliance," Jawad Mohammed Taqi, a senior member of the group known as SCIRI said.

Whoever wins the ballot, he will face off against interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, 59,

whose party endorsed him as its candidate for the post. His party came in third after a Kurdish coalition and received 40 seats.

Meanwhile, gunmen in the northern city of Mosul abducted an Iraqi television presenter, an official from her network said Monday. Raiedah Mohammed Wagh Wazan was abducted by several masked gunmen Sunday night while she was returning home, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. military said insurgents targeted the local TV station "several times in the past week because they have been broadcasting programs that highlighted the negative effects of insurgent activity. Those programs have had rapidly growing support from Iraqi

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,478 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,117 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is 16 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One Marine killed Saturday in an action in Anbar province.

■ A soldier was killed Saturday in a suicide bombing.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Sgt. Timothy R. Osbey, 34, and Army Spc. Joseph A. Rahaim, 22, both of Magnolia, Miss., died Wednesday in Iskandariyah, Iraq, after their vehicle rolled when a road collapsed, assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment, McComb, Miss.

citizens and therefore have caused the station to be targeted."

The U.S. announcement added that "insurgents contacted the station and threatened to continue to target employees."

Two Indonesian journalists and their Jordanian driver missing since last week were found by militants and arrived safely Monday at the Iraq-Jordan border, according to a spokeswoman for Metro TV, their employer. The three were abducted last week outside Ramadi, west of Baghdad.

Security swallows funds meant for reconstruction

By T. CHRISTIAN MILLER

The Los Angeles Times

BAGHDAD — Skyrocketing security costs have forced U.S. officials here to slash an additional \$1 billion from projects intended to rebuild Iraq's shattered infrastructure, dealing another blow to U.S. plans to pacify Iraq by improving basic services.

William Taylor, a U.S. diplomat who oversees Iraqi reconstruction efforts, said the country's violent insurgency has created a "security premium," gobbling up money that would have been spent to provide clean water, electricity and sanitation for Iraqis.

"The security premium is causing existing projects to cost more and take longer. We need to be able to pay for that," Taylor, in an interview in his office in the Foreign Green Zone, "We cut some projects, and we won't start projects that we were otherwise going to start."

The slow pace in rebuilding Iraq has raised protests from Iraqis, who continue to suffer from a lack of basic services. Many Iraq homes and businesses have electricity for only a few hours a day. Raw sewage still streams straight into the Tigris River, just as it did during Saddam Hussein's rule.

Iraqi officials expressed frustration with the latest cutbacks, saying fewer water, sewer and electricity projects could further alienate Iraqis and bolster the insurgency. Already, one top Iraqi official said she had to cut back on plans to deliver clean water to residents of the restive cities of Fallujah and Mosul.

"I'm amazed at how a program meant for reconstruction that could have provided more services and could have effected stabilization could be cut so drastically," said Iraq's Minister of Public Works, Nasreen Mustapha Berwari.

When Congress initially ap-

"The security premium is causing existing projects to cost more and take longer."

William Taylor
U.S. diplomat

proved \$18.4 billion in November 2003 to help rebuild Iraq, the majority of the money was intended to improve Iraq's electrical and water systems, which had suffered from years of neglect during U.N.-imposed sanctions. But the reconstruction program has struggled to take off in the face of violent attacks, intimidation of workers, and allegations of fraud.

In the face of increasing violence, reconstruction officials have shifted funds during the

past few months to improve security. Now, the largest chunk of money, some \$5 billion, pays for weapons, uniforms and other equipment to help Iraqi forces quell the insurgency.

Taylor, who has been mentioned as a candidate to replace departing U.S. Ambassador to Iraq John Negroponte, nominated last week to become the first director of national intelligence, said he was preparing to submit a proposal to Congress in the coming days to reflect further changes to the reconstruction plan, the third such modification in six months. Although final details had not been worked out, Taylor said the shift would involve "less than a billion" dollars moved from water and electric to other projects.

As the reconstruction has focused on security, private contractors working on the rebuilding program have had to increase the amount of money they spend to

protect themselves and their projects. Security costs now range from 5 percent to 25 percent, depending on the project.

The effect of the violence ripples through construction projects. A convoy of bulletproof cars and armed guards can cost more than \$5,000 a day. Truckers who cannot travel on dangerous roads charge for sitting in parking lots. Attacks on electricity plants deprive cement plants of much-needed power, driving up the price of concrete.

U.S. officials had assumed that security issues would total about 10 percent of the money going into projects. Now, as the violence has stepped up, reconstruction officials are estimating an additional \$1 billion will have to be tacked on to that figure, for a total of nearly \$3 billion.

That means that an estimated \$8 billion — or 43 percent — of the reconstruction money will wind up being spent on security for Iraqis or for contractors, far more than originally intended.

Riot at prison in Iraq exposes risks

BY BRADLEY GRAHAM

The Washington Post

CAMP BUCCA, Iraq — A bloody inmate riot three weeks ago at the biggest U.S.-run detention facility in Iraq has exposed an increasingly hard-core prison population that is confronting U.S. forces with a growing risk of military violence, according to military officers.

"What happened here on January 31st has changed the dynamics" of managing such situations, said Maj. Gen. William Brandenburg, who oversees U.S. military detention operations in Iraq and toured the facility last week. "It showed that the prisoners could hurt rocks farther than we could fire nonlethal weapons. It also showed that we have to do a bet-

ter job of understanding who we have in detention."

Four inmates died and six were injured in the uprising the morning of Jan. 31, the most deaths in a prison disturbance since U.S. forces invaded Iraq two years ago. Frightened guards, some having arrived in Iraq only a month before, tried vainly to quell the rioting, spraying pepper gas and shooting rubberized pellets into throngs of prisoners, according to accounts by troops here.

The clashes spread through five of eight compounds at the sprawling detention facility in the southern Iraqi desert near the Kuwait border. Prisoners pelted guards with large stones and makeshift weapons, heaving debris over 15-foot-high metal fences and up at 30-foot-tall guard towers that ring the compounds.

Only after Two Army guards in separate towers opened fire with M-16 rifles, killing the inmates, did the violence subside. U.S. officers say the guards acted on their own, with no order to fire. Rules here allow for use of deadly force if soldiers feel endangered.

For the first time since the incident, U.S. authorities allowed a reporter to visit the facility last week and talk with some of those who were involved. The episode remains under criminal investigation by the military, but the interviews yielded many previously unreported details and information about internal concerns.

About 3,180 prisoners are now at the Abu Ghraib facility, which has remained the U.S. military's primary interrogation center.

Camp Bucca, which has a maximum capacity of 6,000 detainees, is up to about 5,150.

Camp Cropper, near the Baghdad airport, houses about 100 "high-value" detainees. Another 1,300 or so suspected insurgents are being held for initial screenings at military brigade and division levels, according to military figures.

Camp Bucca had been trouble at Camp Bucca before. In mid-October, fighting broke out between Sunni and Shiite prisoners in a dispute over observance of Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month. The Shiites were later placed in a separate compound.

In early December, a protest erupted after two prisoners were sentenced to isolation for an escape attempt. Shouting prisoners,

armed with sticks from collapsed tents and shielded by mattresses, threatened to assault. Guards avoided firing and instead dispersed the inmates using extra troops, guard dogs and firetrucks.

The uprising of Jan. 31 began when U.S. soldiers entered compound No. 5 to search for contraband. A Muslim cleric complained the soldiers killed several Qurans. Soon, masses of prisoners formed and pressed up against the compound's front fence, chanting and shouting.

Using makeshift slingshots, the inmates hurled rocks and chunks of concrete from the floors of their huts. They tossed sticks and plastic water bottles filled with sand. They lit plastic bags filled with flammable hand sanitizer.

Prisoners in four other compounds quickly joined in.



Former CIA contractor David Passaro, 38, center, speaks in front of the North Carolina Federal Building, where he was being held in the Wake County jail in Raleigh. Passaro was released from custody pending a trial for a June 2003 beating of a prisoner in Afghanistan who later died.

Former CIA contractor claims he's victim of abuse blame game

The Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — A former CIA contractor charged with beating a prisoner in Afghanistan who later died says he was made a scapegoat as the U.S. military tries to save face after the scandals at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

David Passaro, facing four counts of assault, denied he played any role in the death of the Afghan prisoner, who was suspected of being a terrorist.

"After Abu Ghraib, the U.S. was going to take a stand on the issue. There had to be someone on the blame line, and it's not going to be the military," Passaro told The Fayetteville Observer in his first interview since his arrest last year.

Military police guarding Iraqi detainees at Abu Ghraib have been charged with abusing and humiliating them. The alleged ringleader, Army Reserve Sgt. Charles Graner Jr., was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison. Others still face charges.

Passaro, a former Special Forces soldier recruited by the CIA, is the only civilian facing federal charges in a case involving a detainee in military custody.

Passaro, 38, is accused of beating Abdul Wali while he was interrogated for two days at a U.S. base in Afghanistan in June 2003. Wali later died. Passaro

could face a maximum of 40 years in prison. His lawyers have argued that he was protecting the nation against terrorists and should not be prosecuted because he was following directives from the president and his administration.

They also contend that the alleged beating occurred outside the jurisdiction of U.S. courts.

Passaro worked for the CIA in Afghanistan from May to July 2003. He was part of a four-man CIA team based at a remote base near the Pakistan border in an area known as a crossing point for Taliban and al-Qaida fighters. The camp was under the command of Special Forces soldiers.

Passaro told the newspaper the military asked him to talk with Wali. He would not say who or give any detail about what happened when he questioned the man, who was a suspect in rocket attacks on the base. "This guy was no innocent sheep herder," Passaro said. "The guy was a terrorist." Wali was the only prisoner at the base and was never in the CIA's custody, Passaro said.

Passaro's indictment was announced in June by then-U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft. He remains under house arrest. Passaro said he is confident he will be cleared at his trial, which is scheduled to begin May 2. "I am going to be vindicated of all this," Passaro said. "I have faith in the Lord and I have faith in the system."

British soldier's Iraq abuse case goes to jury

BY MATT SURMAN

The Associated Press

OSNABRUECK, Germany — A British soldier accused of abusing Iraqi detainees should be acquitted, his attorney said Monday, urging the jury at his court-martial not to be swayed by dismay in Britain over photos of the incident.

Lance Cpl. Mark Cooley, 25, is one of three soldiers from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers who have been on trial at a British base here since Jan. 18.

He has pleaded not guilty to misconduct for simulating a punch and a kick against a captive and cruel misconduct for lifting another bound detainee on a forklift and driving it.

His attorney, Stephen Vullio, has argued he was only transporting the Iraqi to the shade on the forklift, and that he genuinely regrets posting the photos and meant no cruelty — something the prosecution needs to prove to convict him of the second charge.

Referring to expressions of disgust from politicians, including Prime Minister Tony Blair, after the photos were published by British newspapers, Vullio urged the military jury not to be swayed.

"Some politicians would say you to convict because it's politically expedient," he said. "You

know the difference between political expediency and your conscience."

He said the only reason to convict Cooley would be to appease the Iraqi mob. "The same mob who dragged bodies through the streets," he said. "Let's show them what British justice is."

In addition to Cooley, Cpl. Daniel Kenyon, 33, has pleaded not guilty to aiding and abetting the abuse of detained Iraqi soldiers and failing to report it.

The third defendant, Lance Cpl. Darren Larkin, 30, has pleaded guilty to one count of battery, acknowledging he was the man shown in a photo standing with both feet on a tied-up Iraqi lying on the ground. He is awaiting sentencing.

A fourth soldier, Fusilier Gary Bartlam, has been sentenced in the case. The judge, Michael Hunter, has imposed restrictions on Bartlam's trial that bar reporting details.

In his summary remarks, Hunter also admonished the seven-member jury not to pay attention to the publicity surrounding the case. "You will, I assume, have heard or have read of these statements," Hunter said. "I must ask you, gentlemen, to put them firmly and completely out of your mind."

A verdict was expected no later than Tuesday.

Italian journalists leaving Iraq after latest alert

ROME — Several Italian journalists were leaving Iraq after Monday a security alert linked to the danger of kidnappings, news reports said. News agencies ANSA and Apcom said at least three Italian journalists were leaving Iraq after a warning from intelligence services.

One of the journalists, Corriere della Sera correspondent Lorenzo Cernuschi, told private TV SKY TG24 that he was leaving Amman, Jordan, after receiving a warning. "We received this pressing suggestion the day before yesterday to leave Iraq," Cernuschi said. Agostino Mauricci, a journalist from state broadcaster RAI, was quoted by ANSA as saying the journalists were "asked to leave immediately because of a warning, presumably from intelligence services, about the possibility of abductions of Italian journalists."

The Italian Foreign Ministry said it has been urging Italian journalists not to work in Iraq for several weeks.

The Italian government is working to secure the release of Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena, who was abducted in Baghdad on Feb. 4.

From The Associated Press

Photos from the Front

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ABOVE Lt. Col. Rodney Morris, a Lansing, Kan., native and the 1st Infantry Division is provost marshal, congratulates a graduate of the Civil Education Center in Al Aun, Iraq. The three-day re-integration program, which is supported by the 1st ID, rehabilitates former prisoners. The program was created by and is run by Iraqis.

Ismail Turay Jr., U.S. Army

BELOW Spc. Leroy P. Lindsay, Task Force 1-26 Infantry senior turret mechanic, fixes a gun mount on the Bradley fighting vehicle in Iraq.

Duane M. Brown, U.S. Army



RIGHT 1st Sgt. Steven Ridings prepares care packages from the Family Readiness Group that were shipped to Afghanistan by FedEx. Other soldiers from 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry, Sgt. James Buff of Marion, Ind., and Cpl. Robert Denny of Columbus, Ind., discuss the plan to get the gifts to each soldier. These soldiers are currently deployed to Afghanistan with the Indiana Army National Guard's 76th Infantry Brigade as part of Task Force Phoenix.

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IN THE WORLD

EU praises Spain's vote approving constitution

BY RAF CASERT
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — European Union officials on Monday praised Spain's approval of the EU constitution, and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said it may help win over skeptical Britons so they, too, will approve the charter.

The British government has yet to set a date for its referendum on the constitution that the EU leaders signed in Rome on Oct. 29.

"There is considerable anti-EU sentiment in Britain, and a 'no' would prevent the charter from taking effect across the 25-nation EU."

EU officials, disappointed by Spain's low 42 percent turnout, said voter apathy may hinder winning support in nine other EU nations that will also hold referenda.

Spaniards voted by a 76.7 percent margin for the charter, but their turnout rate was the lowest since democracy was restored after the death of dictator Gen. Francisco Franco in 1975.

"We are all worried about low voter turnout," said Margot Wallström, vice president of the European Commission, who is charge of trying to generate public support for the charter in European public opinion.

Apart from Britain, the constitution faces uphill struggles in referenda in France, Poland and the Czech Republic. It must be ratified in all EU countries to take effect. If approved, the first European-wide constitution will come into force in 2007.

An EU study showed last month that almost nine out of 10 European Union citizens know little or nothing about the EU charter, leading to a high level of indecision when it comes to approving the document.

President Bush greets members of the audience following Monday's address at the Concert Nobel in Brussels, Belgium.

AP



Bush urges European allies to move beyond Iraq split

President: Unity needed to create Mideast reforms

BY TOM RAUM
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — President Bush appealed to Europe on Monday to move beyond animosities over Iraq and join forces in encouraging democratic reforms across the Middle East. He also prodded Russia to reverse a crackdown on political dissent, demanded that Iran end its nuclear ambitions and told Syria to get out of Lebanon.

Bush did not rule out using military force in Iran, saying all options remain on the table. But, addressing widespread concerns in Europe that Iran is the next U.S. target after Iraq, Bush said, "Iran is... different from Iraq. We're in the early stages of diplomacy."

Bush's speech on a five-day fence-mending trip to Europe was aimed at both U.S. and European audiences. "In a new century, the alliance of America and Europe is the main pillar of our security," he said.

He used the word "alliance" 12 times in his speech to underscore his aim to repair relations frayed by the war in Iraq.

But not all his speech was conciliatory.

Bush had pointed criticism for Russia three days ahead of a meeting with President Vladimir Putin

in Slovakia. Referring to Putin's recent steps to consolidate power, roll back democratic reforms and curb press and political freedoms, Bush said: "We must always remind Russia that our alliance stands for a free press, a vital opposition, the sharing of power and the rule of law. The United States should place democratic reform at the heart of their dialogue with Russia."

Bush's speech was delivered in an ornate ballroom of Brussels' Concert Noble hall before an audience of business leaders, academics and diplomats. It was greeted mostly by subdued applause.

Bush urged greater "tangible political, economic and security assistance to the world's newest democracy," Iraq. And he called for European allies to stand by fledgling democracy movements throughout the world, and especially in the Middle East.

Bush said he recognized that full democracy could take awhile to root. Even in the United States, democracy came slowly, Bush said, pointing out that women and minorities were not treated equally "and that struggle hasn't ended."

Bush had sharp words for Syria, calling on leaders in Damascus to withdraw its forces from Lebanon. The United States has withdrawn its ambassador from Syria for consultations to protest a suspected link between the assassination and Syria.

If food is the stuff of diplomacy, dine on

The Associated Press

PARIS — At one of their last meals together, President Bush said French President Jacques Chirac had cheeseburgers.

"It was excellent," the French leader said.

Although they have had no stomach for each other's policies at times, the transatlantic sparring partners seemingly share an appreciation for good food during diplomacy.

On Monday, Bush was having a dinner for Chirac in Brussels, Belgium, the president's first stop on a fence-mending trip to Europe.

His choice of Chirac as dinner guest, one of the most outspoken critics of the U.S.-led war in Iraq, reflected Bush's stated hope for the visit to settle rocky transatlantic relationships. Bush says it's time now for France and the United States to leave disagreements behind and work together on the world front.

Sharing meals doesn't mean Bush and Chirac will suddenly see eye-to-eye on the numerous issues where they differ. And dinners are not always great photo opportunities, as Bush's father shows only too well. Former President George H. W. Bush vomited during a 1992 state dinner in Tokyo — an embarrassment aides blamed on stomach flu.

Bush and Chirac last dined together in June, when Bush hosted leaders from the Group of Eight industrial nations at a summit on Sea Island, Georgia.

Chirac has obvious affection for the United States, where he spent a part of his youth working at a diner and fell in love for the first time. Aides to the French leader insist the differences between Bush and Chirac have been political, not personal.

Garbage heap collapse

JAKARTA, Indonesia — A 36-foot-tall heap of garbage collapsed onto a neighborhood Monday, killing 19 people and crushing dozens of houses, officials said.

More than 100 people were missing in the collapse near the West Java town of Bandung, which came after days of torrential rains, said police chief Capt. Suciati Rahni.

Residents and scavengers who eke out a living by sorting through the refuse and reselling recyclable items also were believed to have been caught in the collapse.

We fear that because more than 100 residents died because 46 houses were crushed by debris while families slept inside in the early morning," Rahni said.

She said rescuers were using heavy machinery to remove the garbage.

From wire reports

Clinton, Bush tour tsunami-ravaged Sri Lanka

BY CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
The Associated Press

WELIGAMA, Sri Lanka — Former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton spent time with child survivors of Asia's tsunami on Monday, getting clues to the emotional impact of the disaster after surveying the massive physical destruction it caused.

In the fishing town of Weligama on Sri Lanka's battered southern coast, Clinton and Bush visited temporary houses built of cinderblocks and iron sheeting and sat with children who danced, sang and drew pictures of their experiences.

"Some of them are still drawing about the tsunami, and some of them are drawing life as they remember it and as they want it to be again," Clinton said.

The two former leaders toured facilities built with U.S. government aid to house people whose homes were washed away in the Dec. 26 tsunami, which killed more than 30,000 people in Sri Lanka.

Earlier, they inspected water purification equipment in Koggala, another hard-hit southern town. The American delegation flew by helicopter from the capital, Colombo, to the south, traveling over coastlines still strewn with rubble and debris.

The current president's father praised U.S. troops involved in tsunami relief, though he said he understood there might be some apprehension about their presence.

"I'm very proud of what these guys did," Bush said. "It's a humanitarian mission that I think is well understood here."



Former Presidents Bill Clinton, left, and George H.W. Bush talk with children Monday as they visit displaced residents from the December tsunami in Weligama, Sri Lanka.

Narrow win keeps Schroeder's party in power

BY TONY CZUCZKA
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's party expressed relief Monday after a last-minute turnaround staved off an opposition triumph in a state election, but its losses at the polls raised new questions about the Social Democrats' hold on power.

Analysts and commentators said Germany's stubbornly high unemployment was a key reason why support for the party fell more than four percentage points Sunday, to 38.7 percent, in the small northern state of Schleswig-Holstein.

With elections due in May in the party's stronghold of North

Rhine-Westphalia, western Germany's industrial heartland, that state's Social Democratic governor expressed concern Monday.

"This hardly is the momentum I was hoping for," Peer Steinbrück told reporters in Berlin. "The result in Schleswig-Holstein is a reminder that we have to mobilize more" of our voters, he said.

The main opposition Christian Democrats emerged as the strongest party from Sunday's vote, but together with a center-right ally missed the majority in the state legislature by one seat. A tiny party representing the state's Danish-speaking minority was left as kingmaker, but it has indicated it would tacitly support the

current government of Social Democrats and Greens.

The Social Democrats, who have governed Schleswig-Holstein's roughly 2 million people since 1988, posted their worst showing in the state since 1958.

Angela Merkel, head of the Christian Democrats and a potential Schröder challenger in national elections next year, claimed momentum from her party's showing.

"That the result sends a signal for the next election ... is clear," she said Monday.

The Social Democrats made the best of it, as Schleswig-Holstein governor Heide Simonis got a round of applause at party headquarters in Berlin, a grinning Schröder at her side.



Schleswig-Holstein's State Governor Heide Simonis of the Social Democratic Party is hugged by German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder in Berlin on Monday.

Heavy snow taking its toll on Kashmir



Kashmiri Muslims wait to receive cooking gas cylinders Monday in Srinagar, India. Avalanches and slides triggered by heavy snowfall in India's portion of Kashmir wreaked havoc across the Himalayan region Monday, killing at least 154 people and leaving 200 missing. Indian Air Force pilots were flying sorties to bring food, milk and other necessities to affected areas.

U.N. refugee chief resigns over harassment charges

BY EDITH M. LEDERER
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — After months of criticism, Secretary-General Kofi Annan decided that U.N. refugee chief Rued Lubbers had to go because of the growing controversy over allegations that the former Dutch prime minister had sexually harassed female staffers.

Lubbers didn't go easily. He resigned Sunday but proclaimed his innocence, saying he felt insulted and accusing Annan of giving in to "media pressure."

At a meeting with Annan on Friday, U.N. diplomats said the secretary-general offered the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees two choices — resign or face suspension and charges of breaking U.N. rules.

Allegations first surfaced last

year that he had made unwanted sexual advances toward a female employee, identified in media reports as an American. But it was only on Friday that the British newspaper The Independent published the first detailed description of her allegations and statements from four other women who didn't file official complaints but claimed Lubbers sexually harassed them.

As the United Nations struggles to improve its image in the face of scandals over the U.N. oil-for-food program and sexual abuse by U.N. peacekeepers in Congo, diplomats said Annan decided that Lubbers had become a liability. He was also a fighter.

After defiantly telling reporters that Annan had not asked for his resignation and he intended to complete his five-year term, Lubbers flew home to Geneva on Friday. But after he left U.N. headquarters, Annan's office contacted the refugee chief, saying the prime topic of the meeting was his future.

Apparently knowing what was coming, Lubbers, 65, decided to resign before being suspended.



Lubbers

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Adultery punishment involves 2-year-old girl

MULTAN, Pakistan — A Pakistan village council has punished a 20-year-old man for adultery by ordering the betrothal of his 2-year-old niece to the husband of the woman with whom he had the alleged affair, police said on Monday.

Tribal elders meeting last week also ordered Mohammed Akmal to pay \$3,800 to the wronged husband, who has since divorced his wife.

Police said the council in Kacha Chohan village decreed that the 2-year-old girl would be married to Mohammed Altaf when she turns 18.

Vienna zoo defends safety measures after death

VIENNA, Austria — Officials at the Vienna zoo defended its safety measures Monday, a day after a young elephant bull crushed a keeper to death in an attack that came just three years after jaguars fatally mauled another zoo worker.

The elephant, Abu, became aggressive Sunday as his chief keeper, Gerd Kohl, was showering him. The animal pinned Kohl to the wall and impaled him with his tusks. Kohl, an elephant expert who had cared for Abu since his birth at the zoo almost four years ago, died immediately. He was 39.

From wire reports

Leonardo center of art mystery

Discovery of fingerprint may lead to change in attribution for artwork

BY MARTA FALCONI

The Associated Press

ROME — It's an artistic mystery whose hottest clue is a fingerprint.

"The Adoration of the Christ Child" is attributed to Fra Bartolomeo, but a newly discovered fingerprint in the paint, along with stylistic similarities, are making experts think of Leonardo da Vinci, who sometimes left a digital imprint on his works as a sort of signature.

Near the completion of the painting's yearlong restoration, a kind of yellowish halo could be seen in the sky in the upper left," the chief restorer, Elisabetta Zatti, said, describing the fingerprint she found.

Attribution of the painting has long been in question, and some illustrious names have come up through the centuries — Raphael, Ghirlandajo, Lorenzo Credi. The key may lie in Krakow, Poland, where a da Vinci masterpiece, "Lady with an Ermine," bears the Renaissance master's fingerprint. Photos of the "Adoration" will be flown there next month for comparison.

Da Vinci was big on code. Apart from fingerprints, he wrote backword in his notebooks, and used such symbolism as wild



ITALIAN SUPERINTENDENCE OF ROMAN MUSEUMS/AP

"The Adoration of the Christ Child" has been attributed to Fra Bartolomeo, but a fingerprint may point to Leonardo da Vinci.

primrose, which represents resurrection, and the blue veronica flower, symbol of the eyes of the Virgin Mary. Primrose and veronica have shown up in the restored "Adoration."

The work, hanging in Rome's Galleria Borghese, is believed to have been painted in the late 15th century or early 16th, and depicts Joseph and Mary gazing down at the infant Jesus.

Perhaps the most striking revelation are Mary's large and some-

what masculine hands, a hallmark of many female figures in da Vinci's work.

"There are many details that make one think of Leonardo, like the stylistic power, the technique of sfumato, the virile hands, the eyelids, and the expressive intensity of Saint Joseph, as well as that it's a work full of symbolic meaning," Zatti said in a telephone interview.

Da Vinci pioneered sfumato, which gives outlines a hazy edge and can lend both dreaminess and sense of heightened realism to a work. Many artists copied the technique, but da Vinci's use of it was distinct.

Alessandro Vezzosi, the director of a museum dedicated to da Vinci near Florence who was not involved in the restoration, said the discovery was interesting, but cautioned that more research was needed.

"Fingerprints are very useful, and Leonardo's paintings and manuscripts are full of them," Vezzosi said. "If that is his fingerprint, it means at least that he has worked on that painting."

But Zatti said that if the fingerprint turns out to be da Vinci's, the painting could probably be attributed to him.

"It's difficult to imagine he would have left it on the painting of someone else," she said.

Malaysian employees directed to smile more

The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Civil servants in Malaysia must learn good manners and smile more in a campaign to change their image of being rude and lazy, and government officials plan to monitor their progress by posing as members of the public, a report said Monday.

The training courses for the 850,000-strong civil service are aimed at making those who deal with the public more courteous, the Star newspaper reported, citing Samsudin Osman, the chief secretary to the government.

Senior civil servants will go undercover as members of the public for phone calls to government agencies to hunt for employees who are rude or inefficient, Samsudin said, though he didn't specify what punishment they might face.

The courses focus on things like what it means to smile and how we should treat our clients or the polite way to answer the telephone," the daily quoted Samsudin as saying.

Nordin Abdul Hamid, union chief for government employees, said the courses should be held more regularly, saying "I believe there is need for civil servants to be more courteous."



Mexico's Environment Department said that 75 percent fewer monarch butterflies have appeared in 2004 compared with previous years.

Lower butterfly count blamed on U.S., Canada

BY MARK STEVENSON

The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — The population of monarch butterflies has suffered a drastic decline, but Mexico — where deforestation has long devastated monarch wintering grounds — is now blaming the United States and Canada.

Mexico's Environment Department said on Wednesday that 75 percent fewer monarch butterflies have appeared in 2004 compared with previous years.

It blamed cold weather and intensive farming — including genetically modified crops — in areas of the United States and Canada where the butterflies

spend the summer and reproduce.

In past years, Mexico acknowledged the butterflies were affected by illegal logging of the central Mexico fir forests that make up the winter nesting grounds.

Activists and researchers suggested Mexico was trying to offload some of the blame, after its own highly publicized efforts to stop illegal logging ran up against often violent resistance from logging gangs.

The Mexican government said the decline was due to a number of factors, including an unusually cold summer in the United States and a high mortality rate for the butterflies in Mexico in 2003 due to cold, wet conditions.



AP

A Nissan Motor Co. research center staff watches a driver safely park a car into a spot by using its new system during a test drive Monday outside Tokyo. Using four cameras that relay live video to show the driver's blind spots. The new system puts all those four images together in an image to show what's surrounding the car from all sides and the way it would appear from above.

Nissan's smart cars ease parking stress

BY YURI KAGEYAMA

The Associated Press

YOKOSUKA, Japan — A car that swerves back into lanes on its own and a video system that makes parking a breeze were part of technological features on display by the Japanese automaker Nissan Motor Co.

The technology that reporters tried out in test drives Monday at a research center outside Tokyo is part of Nissan's efforts to make driving safer. Similar smart-car features are in the works at most of the world's top automakers, including Japanese rivals Toyota Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co., as well as General Motors Corp. of the United States and others.

One of the features shown was a more sophisticated version of an existing warning system — already available in Nissan luxury cars in the United States and Japan — that buzzes when the car veers out of the lane.

Lane Departure Prevention combines a camera and computerized devices that control braking

for front and rear wheels that nudges the car in the right direction. No decision has been made when the new system will be available.

The feature turns off when you hit the turn signal, so you will be able to change lanes or make turns without the system kicking in.

Takao Kubozuka, general manager at the research center, said the problem with such safety features is making sure the driver doesn't rely on them too much and start driving recklessly.

"We have to strike the balance between making driving safe and letting people get away with no-hands driving," he said.

Nissan also showed a system to make squeezing into parking spots easier. No more running over kitty or smashing into fences while you back up as four cameras as in the front, back and side-mirrors relay live video.

Vehicles that use a monitor to show images of a driver's blind spots taken on cameras aren't new, but Nissan's system puts together the images to create the aerial view.

IN THE STATES

Storms slam Calif.

3 deaths blamed on rain and snow

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mudslides forced some people to flee their homes and may have trapped others Monday as Southern California was soaked by the latest in a series of storms that were blamed for three deaths, stalled commuter rail service and power outages.

As much as 3 inches of rain was expected along the Southern California coast with 5 inches in the foothills, said Andrew Ronke, meteorologist for the National Weather Service. The mountains could see up to 2 feet of snow.

Rescue workers searched for people believed to be trapped in about 10 feet of mud that crashed into a condominium complex in

Hacienda Heights, a suburb east of Los Angeles, said Los Angeles County Fire Capt. Mark Savage.

"About 30 people were evacuated from 11 homes in Glendale, north of downtown Los Angeles, because of mudslides and flooding, officials said. Three homes on an unstable hill were evacuated in nearby Pasadena.

In the coastal community of La Conchita, where a landslide killed 10 people last month, six families elected to leave during the night because of the heavy rain and a steady flow of mud on the bluffs behind the town, said Capt. Bill Flanagan of the Ventura County Sheriff's Department. Warnings had been issued earlier and the community about 70 miles north



With his 4-month-old daughter Caroline tucked inside his jacket, Nathan Fairman clears snow from his car in South Lake Tahoe, Calif., on Sunday.

of Los Angeles was described as a ghost town Saturday after other residents moved out.

The latest batch of rain, snow and hail started battering the region Sunday, part of a series of

storms that arrived Friday and was expected to continue into Tuesday.

Since Thursday, downtown Los Angeles had gotten more than 6.5 inches of rain.

More snow falls across Northeast

The Associated Press

TAUNTON, Mass. — New Englanders should know better than to write off winter in the middle of February. But for anyone who thought the worst had passed, Mother Nature provided a chilly reminder on Monday.

Snow began falling overnight and became heavy at times during the morning commute. Fortunately, most schools were closed for the President's Day holiday and the roads were relatively empty.

"Anybody who thought winter was over wasn't looking at the calendar," said meteorologist William Babcock of the National Weather Service in Taunton.

Forecasters predicted 4 to 7 inches for the Boston area. Hilly areas of central and northern Massachusetts could get closer to nine.

By daybreak, parts of Hampshire County in western Massachusetts already had four inches, according to the National Weather Service. State police reported numerous accidents.

Aides: Bush feels betrayed by friend who taped him

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — The White House lashed out Sunday at the "former" Bush family friend who secretly tape-recorded the future president discussing sensitive issues like gays and drug use.

Even though aides insisted there was little damaging information on the tapes, they made no effort to hide the fact that President Bush felt betrayed by conservative author Doug Wead.

"These were casual conversations with someone whom the president considered, or believed to be, a friend," said White House spokesman Ken Lisius.

Wead insisted he made the tapes — from 1998 to 2000 — for a book because he believed Bush would become a "pivotal figure in history," like "Churchill or Gandhi."

"I had a choice to either write propaganda about the Bushes or write accurately and fairly based on what I knew," Wead told ABC's "Good Morning America."

Wead said his publisher insisted on listening to the tapes to confirm anonymous sources he cited in his new book. The New York Times then got wind of the tapes, Wead said, and it "all became unraveled."

The disclosures could weaken support for Bush with his conservative base — and crack his renowned aura of predictability and discipline.

"It ought to be damaging," said Baruch College political scientist Doug Muzzio.

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More smart toys can get up close, personal with kids

BY ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Picture an Elmo or Winnie the Pooh plush doll that knows a child's name and favorite food, and tells stories and sings songs incorporating such personal details. Or a new version of Furby that recognizes voices and reacts with emotions from surprise to dismay, and responds to specific words a child says.

These electronic toys, which make a child's play more interactive and personal, are among the products manufacturers are betting on to help them reclaim sales lost since 2003 to grown-up gadgets such as iPod music players.

"Kids tend to remember experiences that are personalized," said Reyne Rice, a toy trend specialist for the Toy Industry Association, the industry trade group.

With these high-tech offerings account for only a small number of the products being unveiled at this year's industry expo, the American International Toy Fair, which began Sunday, they represent the "wow factor" — the kind of product that draws parents into stores, said Chris Byrne, a New York-based independent toy consultant.

All kinds of toys are going high-tech — industry analysts estimate that at least 75 percent of toys debuting this year will have a microchip, Jim Silver, publisher of the Toy Book, a New

York-based industry magazine, now calls the toy business "the family entertainment business."

"The lines have blurred between toys and electronics," he said. The new toys include:

■ **Pixel Chix**, from Mattel Inc., a handheld gadget in the shape of a house that lets a child interact with an animated girlfriend.

The toy will retail for \$29.99.

■ **Winnie the Pooh** or **Elmo Knows Your Name**, from Mattel's Fisher-Price, a doll that can know a child's name and other personal details, such as his or her birthday and favorite games. Using a cable connection and a CD-ROM, parents can download key information into the characters. Each will be priced at \$39.99.

■ A new version of **Furby**, from Hasbro Inc., which boasts a new technology called **emotronics** that brings the plush toy more to life. It will be able to speak interactively with the child and respond to words such as "hungry." It will be priced at \$39.99.

■ **Amazing Amanda**, from Playmates Toys Inc., a 21-inch doll that can recognize her "mommy's" voice and respond after hearing it just three times. The doll is expected to sell for \$99.99.

NPD Group, a market research company, said high-tech toys are helping to stabilize the overall toy business. Although overall sales fell 3 percent to \$20.1 billion in 2004 from \$20.7 in 2003, following a 2.9 percent drop in 2003, some products showed improvement.

Manufacturers say they need to create more compelling electronic toys as children become more sophisticated and have more choices when it comes to playing and entertaining themselves, from video games to consumer electronics gadgets such as digital music players and cell phones.

As microchips have become more powerful, manufacturers have been able to make more advanced toys that are still affordable. Other toys that will be displayed at Toy Fair include Hasbro's \$25 **i-Dog**, a palm-sized robotic dog that moves and grooves to music, either from stereo speakers or played through an earphone jack. Hasbro is also offering **ChatNow**, a \$74.99 pet of two-way radio communicators that allows kids to call or text message their friends within a two-mile radius without paying for air-time.



AP photos

Top: Dizzy Gillespie's trumpet, left, and a 31-page letter by Louis Armstrong to his manager, were among jazz items up for auction. Above: Arlan Ettinger, president of Gurneys's auction house, shows off Roy Haynes' drums at Lincoln Center in New York.

Going once, twice ... jazz treasures sold

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Lionel Hampton's vibraphone and Dizzy Gillespie's trumpet were among a treasure trove of 450 pieces of jazz memorabilia auctioned to raise money for jazz charities.

Hampton's engraved 1930s King George instrument sold for \$50,000 said Kim Anello, a spokeswoman for the Gurneys's auction house, which conducted the sale. Gillespie's custom-made Martin trumpet fetched \$26,000. A handwritten letter from John Coltrane to his mother in 1964 sold for \$16,000; another sold for \$14,000. The identities of the winning bidders were not released.

Also up for auction were items such as Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong's trumpet, a saxophone engraved with Charlie "Bird" Parker's name, an unreleased tape of a 1951 Parker performance and a rhinestone gown from the late 1960s in which Peggy Lee sang smoldering songs such as "Fever."

Thelonious Monk's smoking

jackpot had the name of his song evoking his beloved wife embroidered inside the sleeve, with a whimsical detail — "Crepusculum with Nellie" was misspelled.

The auction was held at the new home of Jazz at Lincoln Center in Manhattan. Bidders participated by telephone, on eBay or in person. Gurneys's refrained from setting price estimates "because prices are set by precedents — and there's no precedent for these items," company president Arlan Ettinger said before the sale.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 21)	\$1.3401
Dollar buys (Feb. 21)	0.7462
Canada (Dollar)	1.2316
Egypt (Pound)	5.8136
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.8947
Canada (Dollar)	1.2316
Denmark (Krone)	5.7032
Egypt (Pound)	5.8136
Euro	\$1.3407/0.7462
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7996
Hungary (Forint)	165.51
Iceland (Krona)	61.795
Israel (Shekel)	4.3502
Japan (Yen)	105.64
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2919
Norway (Krone)	6.3478
Philippines (Peso)	54.69
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7509
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6367
South Korea (Won)	5.9076
Switzerland (Franc)	1.1829
Thailand (Baht)	35.54
Turkey (New Lira)	1.4045

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance.) Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, for nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates, which are based on the buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc Metals	
Gold	\$427.10
Silver	\$7.413

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	1.25
Federal funds market rate	2.50
3-month bill	2.60
30-year mortgage	4.65

Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Budget travel tips

The Associated Press

Whether you're traveling for business or pleasure, you probably could use a few tips to make it easier. The Feb. 15 issue of TravelSmart offers these:

■ When traveling abroad, take your own toothpaste. While most Americans have had fluoridated municipal water for decades, many other countries don't add it to the water. This has prompted many foreign brands to put more in the toothpaste than many of the common U.S. brands. While not a health problem, excessive amounts of fluoride for children can cause permanent brown spots on the skin.

■ Gasoline usually costs less early in the week. Petrol peddlers are no dummies: We drive more on the weekends, so pump prices are boosted on Fridays.

■ Reserve a compact or economy car, when possible. Rental fleets stock more larger cars than smaller, because of demand patterns, so you're likely to get a free upgrade if all the smaller cars are gone.

■ At hotels, the third through sixth floors are safest. Thieves tend to target ground and 2nd floor rooms, especially those with a balcony, patio, terrace or direct pool access. Also, if there's a fire, you'll have a longer walk down if staying on a high floor.

FLY HOME

Jan-Mar Specials	
Atlanta	\$339
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OPINION

Don't let Kim have his cake and eat it too

Happy birthday, Kim Jong Il! Kim turned 63 Wednesday, and extravagant celebrations honoring the authoritarian ruler were expected — pretty much mandated — throughout North Korea.

Eric Mink

Kim actually got the party started a week before his birthday with an official statement from his foreign ministry that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (neither democratic nor a republic) possesses nuclear weapons. He simultaneously pulled North Korea out of the six-nation talks that were aimed at finding incentives for him to abandon his nuclear pursuits.

The double-barreled surprise thrust Kim into the world spotlight. "Attention must be paid," as the late Arthur Miller wrote of his sad salesman, Wily Loman.

But the hard-liners within the Bush administration would rather not pay attention to Kim. They prefer to go through the motions of diplomacy, letting the Chinese take the point while they gamble that Kim can be ignored to death. Their plan is to force Kim's regime into collapse through pressure tactics including, as The New York Times reported last week, the use of sophisticated computer tracking to "choke off its few remaining sources of income."

This is rationalization masquerading as strategy. President Bush seems to have decided that Kim is both crazy and evil and that the United States stands to gain nothing by dealing directly with a madman.

Bush's attitude toward Kim is eerily consistent with the portrayal of the dictator in "Team America: World Police," a relentlessly vulgar musical comedy that has the energy of the "South Park" TV series and, arguably, the funniest movie of 2004. In the film — all characters are string-controlled marionettes — Kim is a flat-out psychopath secretly plotting thousands of simultaneous terrorist attacks around the globe.

I don't know if Kim truly is psychopathic,

although there's no question that he represses his people brutally and ruthlessly. It's worth noting that the intelligence services know even less about what's really happening inside North Korea than they did about Iraq. Some Western officials who have dealt personally with Kim describe a person up to his facts, astute about what he wants and nimble in negotiations.

It's not reassuring to see the foreign policy views of the U.S. president championed by a bawdy puppet movie; the supposed insanity of an adversary is simply too convenient an excuse for diplomatic failure.

And in fact, at least some of Kim's moves — disconcerting as they are — make perfect sense. Under the Agreed Framework of 1994, for example, the United States promised to supply North Korea with two nuclear-powered light-water electric plants and take clearly timed steps toward normalized relations. For its part, North Korea promised to take specific steps back from its development of nuclear technology and permit independent verification.

The plants never were built, the steps never taken. North Korea secretly started back on its nuclear path. Bush's subsequent policy of non-negotiation — and the invasion of Iraq — have only given Kim more incentive to continue.

One of Bush's strengths as a leader, we're told, is that he says what he means and means what he says. Why then do he and his staff seem so oblivious to the consequences of their words? In the summer of 2003, days before the start of multination talks about North Korea in Beijing, Undersecretary of State John Bolton, one of Bush's cadre of neo-conservatives, publicly denounced Kim as "a tyrannical dictator." Surprise: The talks produced nothing.

A year later, at a campaign appearance in Hudson, Wis., Bush again called Kim a "tyrant," the same word he used in the same speech to describe Saddam Hussein. North Korea's foreign ministry responded with a statement calling Bush "a political imbecile bereft of even elementary morality as a human being and a bad guy.... Bush is a tyrant that puts Hitler into the shade."

At her Senate confirmation hearings, Condoleezza Rice, then Bush's nominee to be



secretary of state, placed North Korea among the world's "outposts of tyranny." In his inaugural address two days later, Bush proclaimed the United States "ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world."

Was it at all irrational for Kim to regard those statements as a direct threat? Indeed, North Korea's statement this month specifically cited Bush's and Rice's comments in explaining why it has "manufactured nukes for self-defense."

In a present analysis of Bush's anti-terrorism strategies, Jeffrey Record of the U.S. Air Force's Air War College in Montgomery, Ala., warned that the war in Iraq was likely to accelerate the nuclear activities of such countries as North Korea. "If anything," Record wrote in his December 2003 report, "rogue-state regimes see in such weapons a means of deterring American military action against themselves."

Bush and company counter that the Libya success story proves the Iraq war has been a powerful incentive for nuclear disarmament.

After seeing the United States depose Saddam, the story line goes, Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi decided to give up his nuclear and chemical weapons programs. Nonsense, said Flynn Leverett, who ran Middle Eastern affairs for Bush's National Security Council from 2002 to 2003.

In an op-ed piece last year for The New York Times, Leverett described Libya's decision as the end product of a long, step-by-step diplomatic process that began in the Clinton administration and was brought to fruition in the Bush administration by keeping the issue away from the neo-conservative hard-liners. After Sept. 11, 2001, however, the neo-cons were firmly in charge, Leverett wrote, and Bush failed to pursue comparable opportunities with both Iran and Syria.

Given this month's developments with North Korea, we seem to be in for four more years of lurching from one foreign policy crisis to the next.

Eric Mink is commentary editor for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Zimbabwe leader an affront to an improved Africa

The Washington Post

Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's 80-year-old dictator, refers to the U.S. secretary of state as a "girl" who ought to know that "the white man is not a friend." He also regards Zimbabwe's long-suffering people as children who should be "trained" to say in their own country. He rigged elections in 2000 and 2002. The parliamentary election scheduled for March 31 looks likely to be no better.

In the run-up to next month's vote, Mugabe has prevented the opposition party from advertising, restricted its meetings, pressed fresh treason charges against its leader and directed militias to intimidate its organizers. Mugabe also has used food shortages as a political weapon, denying relief to opponents. He has harassed election monitoring groups, detained some of the few remaining independent journalists and seized control of the electoral commission. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the veteran South African anti-apartheid campaigner, has called the Mugabe dictatorship a "huge blot" on Africa. In response, a Mugabe henchman accuses the archbishop of being a threat to the "false gods, Tony Blair and George Bush."

The question is whether the rest of Africa is going to allow Zimbabwe's aging racist to

equat political freedom with colonial repression. The continent's two powerhouses, South Africa and Nigeria, are both democratic and are trying to spread democratic values across the continent. According to Freedom House, 32 African countries are free or partly free; 16 are classified as unfree. The South Africans and Nigerians scored a victory recently by leading a continent-wide denunciation of an undemocratic

succession in the West African state of Togo. Their firmness is having an effect: Togo's regime has promised an election within 60 days, as called for in its constitution.

Taking on Zimbabwe is tougher. But Mugabe is mocking Africa's talk of democracy so openly that the continent's leaders, notably South African President Thabo Mbeki, must not duck the challenge. A force-

ful denunciation of Mugabe's repression, coupled with the threat of sanctions, might quickly force the dictator to change; Zimbabwe depends on South Africa economically.

The rewards to democratic Africa for tough action would be substantial. The rich world is debating a possible scaling up of development aid this year. The money is more likely to flow if Africans show the courage to address their most obvious shortcomings.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY





Quick Trips

Saluting America in the air

English museum displays historic U.S. aircraft

BY RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

The American Air Museum is a lasting memorial to the 30,000 airmen who lost their lives flying from British air bases during World War II.

It is on the grounds of the Imperial War Museum Duxford, an air base that was integral to the defeat of Nazi Germany 60 years ago. U.S. fliers flew P-47 Thunderbolts and P-51 Mustangs from the base. When the museum opened in 1997, the queen of England was among those in attendance, reflecting its importance to the British.

Inside the building, which has gained international attention and awards for its design, sits America's air heritage. There are almost 20 aircraft, including a UH-1 Huey helicopter, jumbled together like a giant jigsaw puzzle. Some planes hang from the building's curved roof. Others are clustered together like chicks in a barnyard.

A B-52 Stratofortress, for example, seems to cradle an F-4J Phantom II jet to its side. A Grumman TBM-3 Avenger appears to soar protectively over a B-17 Flying Fortress.

The Navy Avenger is painted like the one flown by President George H.W. Bush during World War II. The former president visited the museum in 2002 for a dedication ceremony, smiling while he looked up at the plane bearing the name Barbara.

The planes range from a Spad S-13, a French fighter flown by American aviators during World War I, to aircraft such as the A-10 Thunderbolt, which attacked Iraqi tanks in Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm.

The centerpiece is the B-52D, which is an awesome presence in the museum.

Peter Murton, a historian at the museum, expressed regret that planes such as the B-52 have

to be stored indoors among the other aircraft. It looks "a hell of a lot better" outside where its size can be appreciated, he said.

But, he said, England's damp, chilly climate is not hospitable to aircraft. The climate-controlled museum is a better place for these historic machines.

Another highlight is the Georgia Frontiere Gallery, named for the American woman who owns the St. Louis Rams football team. She has been a generous supporter of the museum, which still receives most of its funding from Americans.



Outside the museum, a panel shows images of American aircraft flown from England during World War II — each one stands for a lost aircraft and crew.

The gallery includes uniforms and equipment used by aviators. Wall panels list the names of 8th Air Force fliers who died flying from British bases during the war. The names of 9th Air Force crewmen are available at the touch of a computer.

The museum continues to seek financial supporters. Information on how to contribute and the benefits of that support can be found on the Imperial War Museum Web site.

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensen@mail.estripes.osd.mil.



PHOTOS BY RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

An F-4J Phantom II, foreground, sits near a B-52D Stratofortress at the American War Museum in Duxford, England, part of the Imperial War Museum. Flying above in the background is a replica of a Spad S-13, a French fighter used by American fliers in World War I.



A visitor to the American Air Museum gets a close look at a B-17 Flying Fortress. The museum is on the grounds of the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, and includes many classic American aircraft.

On the QT

Directions

The Imperial War Museum Duxford is on the A505 just off the M11 south of Cambridge in the direction of Royston. Signs on the M11 make it easy to find. From RAF Alconbury and RAF Molesworth, travel south on the A14 to the M11, continuing south and following the signs. From RAF Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath, follow A11 south toward Stansted Airport. Follow signs to the A505 and the Imperial War Museum Duxford.

Times

Winter hours, which last until March 18, are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the last admission at 3:15 p.m.; summer hours, March 19 through Oct. 29, are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with the last admission at 5:15 p.m. The museum is open daily except Dec. 24-26.

Costs

Adult admission (ages 19 to 59) is 12 British pounds, about \$23; senior citizens 60 and older, 9 pounds; children ages 16-18 are 7 pounds; children ages 15 and younger are admitted free. Admission includes access to the entire Imperial War Museum Duxford, which features scores of aircraft important to the British air heritage, including the British Airways Concorde. A land museum tells the story of the war on the ground with displays of tanks and other vehicles. The Battle of Britain and the D-Day landings at Normandy, France, are also highlighted in museum displays.

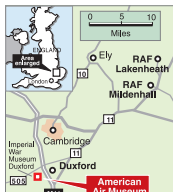
Food

A cafeteria is available on the museum grounds.

Information

The Web site for the American Air Museum and all the Imperial War Museums is www.iwm.org.uk; phone number is (+44) (0)1223-835-000.

— BY RON JENSEN



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelex: Cloudy with rain and snow showers. Highs in the upper 30s to lower 40s. Monday lows in the 20s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with rain and snow showers. Highs in the upper 30s to mid 40s. Monday lows in the lower to mid 30s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy with rain and snow showers. Highs in the mid 30s. Sunday lows in the mid to upper 20s.

France: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the lower 40s to lower 50s. Monday lows in the mid 20s to lower 30s.

Northern Germany: Cloudy with snow showers. Highs in the lower to mid 30s. Monday lows in the lower to mid 20s.

Southern Germany: Cloudy with snow showers. Highs in the lower 30s. Monday lows in the upper teens to lower 20s.

Hungary: Cloudy with snow showers. Highs in the lower 30s. Monday lows in the mid 20s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy with rain and snow showers. Highs in the mid to upper 30s. Monday lows in the upper 20s to mid 30s.

Southern Italy: Cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the lower to mid 30s. Monday lows in the upper 30s to lower 40s.

Kosovo: Cloudy with snow showers. Highs in the mid 20s to mid 30s. Monday lows in the lower 20s to lower 30s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Highs in the mid 30s to lower 40s. Monday lows in the mid 20s to lower 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs in the 50s to lower 60s. Monday lows in the mid 30s to lower 40s in the south, and lower 20s to lower 30s inland.

Turkey: Cloudy with rain and snow showers. In the north, high in the mid 30s to mid 40s with Monday lows in the upper 20s to upper 30s. In the south, high in the mid 50s to mid 60s with Monday lows in the mid 40s to mid 50s.

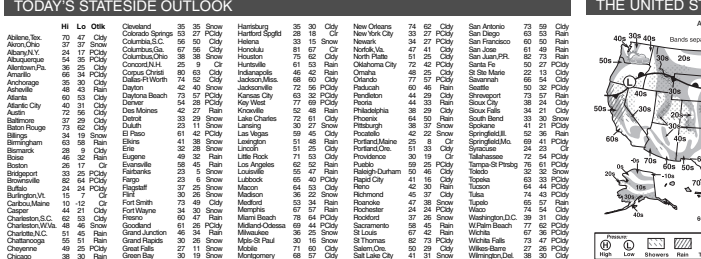


For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at: <http://www.sembach.af.mil>
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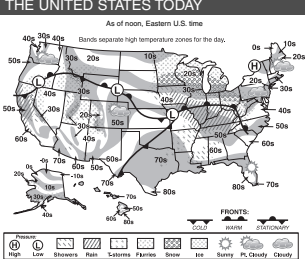
SUN & MOON



TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK



THE UNITED STATES TODAY



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STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Contract agreement

PA PHILADELPHIA — Temple University and its professors' union reached tentative agreement on a four-year contract that would increase the faculty pay package by 15.22 percent. In addition, benefits would be available for domestic partners, the sabbatical program would expand, and pension benefits would be added for non-tenure track faculty such as lecturers. The 1,165 faculty members vote on the agreement this week.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Lake Michigan mess

IL CHICAGO — Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn assailed "pinheads in Washington" for a proposed federal rule change that would allow cities to dump more untreated sewage into Lake Michigan. The proposal would let cities with outdated sewage treatment systems mix treated and untreated sewage during wet weather. Quinn said that would mean more beach closures and tainted drinking water.

Gay marriage ban

TN NASHVILLE — A House committee approved a proposed constitutional ban on gay marriages, moving it toward debate by the full chamber. The approval came one day after a Senate committee passed it. The measure passed last year by a simple majority and must gain two-thirds approval in the Legislature this session to appear before voters in 2006.

Woman charged in hoax

KS COLUMBUS — Cherokee County prosecutor Michael Goodrich says he wants to dismiss felony charges against Birdie Jo Hoaks, 34, accused of posing as a 13-year-old boy to enroll in middle school. The 5-foot-tall, 140-pound woman met with a special education teacher for four days before inconsistencies in her story revealed the hoax. Charges against her twin sister also would be dropped.

Union workers march

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — Union workers rallied at the Capitol and demanded that lawmakers stop trying to repeal a law requiring some Oklahoma cities to allow municipal workers to bargain collectively.

Rep. Bill Case, who wrote the repeal bill, argues the collective bargaining statute could lead to a decline in services and impose an unfunded mandate on local governments.

SUV driver arrested

VT WINOOSKI — A Burlington man is facing drunken-driving charges that he crashed his sport utility vehicle into a multi-family house seconds after he swerved to avoid three pedestrians, police said.

Viktor Ishkhanyan, 48, was arrested by police on the charge of driving under the influence at the time of the accident, Lt. R.J. Sheehan said.

Ishkhanyan's blood alcohol level was 0.299 percent, more than three times the state's 0.08 percent legal limit, Sheehan said.

Ishkhanyan was driving north on Weaver Street when he tried to

swerve around a van. Officer Paul Townsend said. He then drove across the street and onto the sidewalk, where three adults were walking. Ishkhanyan jerked the car back onto the road to avoid the pedestrians and instead crashed through a chain-link fence and into the corner of a house, Townsend said.

Sheehan said Ishkhanyan, a Russian native with limited English skills, did not discuss the accident with him after he was taken into custody.

Purging Jim Crow laws

WV CHARLESTON — Delegates introduced a bill to remove from state law the few remaining passages of so-called Jim Crow laws that were aimed at separating blacks and whites.

Delegate Sharon Spencer, 57, who is white, co-sponsored the measure with the Legislature's only two black members, Democrat delegates Charlene Marshall and Cliff Moore — whose father, Ernest Moore, began the process of purging the law books of racist language during his 12 terms in the House.

"I have a feeling that it's going to pass without any trouble at all," the younger Moore said. "They know this is the right thing to do."



New wave

Caftin Bedford models her own design titled "All Tied Up" during the fifth annual Wearable Art Extravaganza at Centennial Hall, in Juneau, Alaska. The dress, made entirely of ties, was one of 30 entered into the art show hosted by the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council.

The bill targets a section of the law governing county school boards that speaks of the ratio of "Negro" assistant superintendents to black teachers.

It also targets a reference to the defunct "Negro board of education" in a section addressing the historically black Bluefield State College.

Spencer said a Yale professor found the long-forgotten language during a research project, and informed state lawmakers.

It's almost official

VA RICHMOND — Gov. Mark Warner will likely sign legislation making the Virginia big-eared bat the commonwealth's official bat, his spokeswoman said. Among Virginia's other official symbols: milk (state beverage), the brook trout (state fish), and the Tiger swallowtail butterfly (state insect).

Courteous inmate

OH CANTON — An inmate released by mistake by jail officials in Ohio arranged his own way back to the prison in Colorado where he still has two more years to serve. He even called to say he was on his way.

Stark County jailers let Ricky Lee Claycomb go after he was acquitted of a rape charge he had been brought to Ohio from Colorado to face. Jail officials apparently never saw the paperwork to return him to the prison.

"We don't know exactly what happened," Sheriff Tim Swanson said.

Claycomb, 37, called his mother in Henderson, Colo.

"He told them at the jail that he was supposed to be taken back to Colorado," said his mother, Jill Claycomb. "He said they told him he was done in Canton and it was his problem to get back."

She sent him money for a bus ticket. After the two-day trip to Colorado, Claycomb visited her long enough to have oatmeal and peaches for breakfast and pizza for lunch, and then his brother drove him to Colorado's Fremont Correctional Facility in Canon City.

Abstinence in sin city?

NV LAS VEGAS — Yvette Thomas says Las Vegas is a city where abstinence sells in sin city.

Her wholesome wares stood out at MAGIC Marketplace, an intimate apparel trade show at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Thomas quietly hawked her company's T-shirts and panties adorned with slogans such as "Virginity Lane: Exit When Married" and "No vows, no sex," amid booths sponsored by the likes of Playboy and Pamela Anderson.

"We have so much of the opposite out there, sometimes we have to remind ourselves what our values are," Thomas said. "A number of people have walked by and said, 'I like your message.'"

Thomas launched Wait Wear five years ago. Without prior fashion experience, she slowly built her Las Angeles-based company through online sales and displays at youth events.

This week marks Wait Wear's first appearance at MAGIC Marketplace, which draws 93,000 visitors and \$129.7 million in nongambling revenue to Las Vegas.



Search and rescue

Enid Fire Department fire engine driver Andy Wall uses an oxygen mask to aid a dog named Lucky, who was rescued from a burning house in Enid, Okla. Lucky had to be carried out from his home.



Fish story

Tony Bombe, of Orlando, Fla., lands a largemouth bass while fishing on Lake Lloyd in the infield of the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.



Young riders

Norma Ortiz, 13, a two-year member of the Las Mariposas Riding Club from El Paso, Texas, sits on her horse as she waits to take part in the San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo parade which wound through downtown San Angelo, Texas.



Just hanging on tight

Luis Escudero gets a big jolt forward during his ride in the bareback contest at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo.



Rolling waters

North Las Vegas roads flood causing a strain for weekend drivers on Grand Teton Drive near North Buffalo Drive.



Here kitty, kitty

A cat casts his shadow through a broken pane of glass on a barn window near Wilton, Iowa.



Don't look down

Climber Aidan Loehr works his way up the 200-foot tall Hung Jury, a frozen waterfall in Keystone Canyon outside of Valdez, Alaska, during the annual Valdez Ice Climbing Festival.

GOP says no to funds

OR SALEM — The Senate Republican Caucus announced it will no longer accept campaign contributions during the legislative session. It's calling on Democratic Gov. Ted Kulongoski and other elected officials to do the same. Senate Democrats, House Democrats and House Republicans have all vowed not to accept campaign contributions during this year's session.

Insurance claims drop

MA LAWRENCE — Auto accident claims are down significantly in Lawrence and several other Merrimack Valley communities after a 16-month crackdown on auto insurance fraud, according to an industry report.

The Insurance Fraud Bureau of Massachusetts forecasts \$25 million in savings for 2004 in Lawrence alone, based on lower claims for personal injury, property damages and other claims during the first nine months of last year, compared with the same period in 2003.

Claims also were down in nearby Andover, North Andover, Methuen and Haverhill, but no savings estimate was given.

Scores of people were arrested in the crackdown on fraudulent accident reports in Lawrence after a 65-year-old woman was killed in 2003 in a staged crash that police said she helped arrange.

Accident reports filed with police have declined as much as 40 percent, and the downturn has continued for more than a year.

Authorities said the latest numbers indicate a sharp decline in phony accidents because they result in many more injury claims than real ones, typically eight injury claims for a two-car fake collision.

Bird-feeder ban

CA SAN FRANCISCO — The California Department of Fish and Game is asking Northern California residents to remove their bird feeders for at least a month to slow the spread of an avian disease.

Salmonellosis has killed a number of pine siskins, small brown streaked birds with yellow patches on their wings and tails. The birds live primarily in wooded areas, and dead birds have been found throughout the forested areas of Northern California, from Grass Valley to Eureka.

While it is unlikely humans would contract the disease, pets could, especially if they are exposed to fecal matter below feeders, officials said.

Birds contract the disease from each other, most often by eating fecal-contaminated food. But they also can become sick by sticking their heads in tube feeders where their eyes come in contact with the feeder itself.

\$560,000 settlement

FL KEY WEST — A shipping company has agreed to pay more than \$560,000 to settle claims

that its freighter damaged a protected coral reef in the Florida Keys, officials said.

The freighter, MSC Diego, was cited in 2002 for illegally anchoring in the National Marine Sanctuary. Biologists said its anchor and chain overturned more than 1,000 coral colonies and crushed others in an area about the size of an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

Mediterranean Shipping Co. and its insurer will reimburse the government \$100,000 for the damage and related costs, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said. The companies will also pay \$465,796 to monitor and restore the reef.

The sanctuary covers 2,900 square nautical miles of coral reefs, sea-grass meadows and shorelines.

Phony voter guilty

OH DEFAENCE — A man pleaded guilty to charges he tried to phony voter registration cards in the names of Mary Poppins, Dick Tracy, Michael Jordan and George Foreman.

Chad Staton, 22, faces up to a year in prison and \$2,500 fine on each of 10 counts of false registration at his sentencing April 13.

Officials said Staton had fraudulently filled out more than 100 forms.

Psychiatric patient dies

TX HOUSTON — A 52-year-old psychiatric patient who had a heart ailment died after Harris County constables shocked him with a stun gun, authorities said.

The two deputies went to the man's mother's home to serve a mental health commitment warrant, Chief Deputy J.C. Mosier said. They used the Taser after the man resisted their efforts to take him away.

The man continued to struggle with the deputies, but he then started having trouble breathing. He was taken by ambulance to a hospital where he later died.

The deputies knew the man had health problems but were unaware of his heart ailment, Mosier said.

"We would have handled it a lot different if we would have had better information," he said.

Here's the ticket

IN SHELBYVILLE — Karrie Jeremiah pulled a discarded lottery ticket from a restaurant trash can and hit the jackpot.

Two other people had purchased the \$3 Hoosier Lottery scratch-off ticket last week at El Chapparral Cafe. When a clerk at the downtown cafe told them it wasn't the \$40 winner they were hoping for, they threw it away, lottery officials said.

It wasn't a \$40 winner — it was a \$100,000 winner.

Jeremiah said she wondered whether the numbers were completely checked before the ticket was tossed.

"Who would ever throw this ticket in the trash knowing it was a \$100,000 hit?" she said.

Stories and photos from news wires

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated program listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2005

[AFN-FAMILY]		[AFN-MOVE]	[AFN-EUROPE]	[AFN-KOREA]	[AFN-NEWS]	[AFN-SPORTS]	[SPECTRUM]	[AFN-PACIFIC]
9:00	Stanley "Little Dog Lost"	Movie *** "In the Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
9:30	Sagebrush-Stamess Cat	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
10:00	Arthur (E)	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
10:30	Reading Rainbow (E)	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
11:00	Sagebrush-Stamess Cat	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
11:30	Stanley "Thugnut Party"	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
12:00	Dora the Explorer	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
12:30	The Wiggles	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
14:00	Blue's Clues (E)	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
15:00	Farmist Home Videos	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
16:00	Pokemon Sliden ball	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
16:30	Go-Go's	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
17:00	Doug (E)	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
18:30	Rugrats Jonathan Babysits	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
19:00	The Proud Family (E)	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
19:30	The Amanda Show	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
20:00	Everwood "Extra Ordinary"	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
20:30	Sister, Sister	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
21:00	Sister, Sister	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
21:30	Sister, Sister	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
22:00	The Cosby Show	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
22:30	Home Improvement	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Then Sing My Soul"	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!
23:30	Touched by an Angel "Then Sing My Soul"	Movie *** "The Best Interest of the Children" (1992, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jopardy!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2005

0:00	Doug "Doug's Last Birthday"	[11:50] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	Access Hollywood	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
0:30	Rocket Power	[12:40] Movie *** "True Grit" (1969, John Wayne A re-imagined western and a Texas Ranger aid avengeful tale.	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
1:00	The Fairly OddParents	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
1:30	Rugrats	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
2:00	The Proud Family (E)	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
2:30	The Amanda Show	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
3:00	Everwood "Extra Ordinary"	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
3:30	Sister, Sister	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
4:00	Sister, Sister	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
4:30	Sister, Sister	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
5:00	Sesame Street (E)	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
5:30	Barney & Friends (E)	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
6:00	Barney & Friends (E)	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
6:30	Dragon Tales (E)	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
7:00	Bob the Builder	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
7:30	Bob the Builder	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
8:00	The Wiggles	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
8:30	Dora the Explorer	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
9:00	Stanley "The Big Splat"	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
9:30	Sagebrush-Stamess Cat	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
10:00	Arthur (E)	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
10:30	Reading Rainbow (E)	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
11:00	Sagebrush-Stamess Cat	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
11:30	Stanley	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
12:00	Dora the Explorer	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
12:30	The Wiggles	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
13:00	Bob the Builder	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
14:00	Blue's Clues (E)	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
15:00	Farmist Home Videos	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
15:30	Full House "The Apartment"	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
16:00	Quest for Freedom: The Hart-Allen at Tubman Story	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
17:00	Doug "Doug's Best Buddy"	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
18:30	Rugrats Pizza	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
19:00	Even Stevens	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
19:30	Kenan & Kel (Part 1 of 2)	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
20:00	Gilmore Girls "I Should've Seen Love"	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
21:00	Degrassi: Next	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
21:30	Degrassi: Next	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
22:00	The Cosby Show	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
22:30	Home Improvement	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Then Sing My Soul"	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune
23:30	Touched by an Angel "Then Sing My Soul"	[13:00] Movie *** "The Seventh Sign" (1988, Horror)	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	4 Ours	Star Trek: Enterprise "Hatchery"	Wheel of Fortune

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FACES

One in a million

Oscar winner Swank has inside track for second statuette

BY BARRY KOLTOW
The Orange County Register

HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood is a tough town. The Chateau Marmont is a tough hotel in Hollywood.

This is a place that is so embedded with the movie industry that the show business newspaper Daily Variety is posted each day in the elevators.

During any given lunch hour, the hotel's outdoor dining area is filled with actors discussing career moves with their agents and filmmakers finalizing movie deals with studio executives. You can't swing a free gift basket over your head without hitting someone in the movie business.

Into this frenzied environment strolled Hilary Swank. The actress did not have a reservation but Oscar winners don't usually need reservations in Hollywood.

The maitre d' offered a noisy table near the entrance but the actress was looking for a quieter table in the back for this interview. The maitre d' apologized but said he couldn't go out of his way to accommodate her.

Like we said, tough hotel. Apparently, only two-time Oscar winners get the royal treatment at this hotel, so the 30-year-old Swank will just have to wait a few days.

The star of Clint Eastwood's "Million Dollar Baby" is the odds-on favorite in the Best Actress category after her wins at the Golden Globes and the Screen Actors Guild ceremony. In the film, which is gathering its own momentum for a run at the Best Picture Oscar, Swank plays a fiercely determined woman seeking to escape her empty life through boxing.

After finding a quiet table in another section of the hotel's garden, Swank ordered an iced tea and an ahi tuna plate, and then explained what her 1999 Oscar for "Boys Don't Cry" meant to her career, why Clint stands in line at lunch and who she can beat up.

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER: How does this pre-Oscar period compare with the last time?

HILARY SWANK: You would think that the second time around wouldn't be as exciting, or would seem a little more predictable because you've been through it before, but in the end I'm still as much in disbelief as I was the first time.

OCR: Really?

SWANK: Yeah. Because, first of all, you don't think it's going to happen even once in your life. And then, it happens and you think, "OK, this is a once-in-a-lifetime" thing. I may be even more appreciative this time.

OCR: Explain.

SWANK: When I won the last time, I thought I would be bombarded with the most amazing roles. I thought there would be a plethora of opportunities and I wasn't going to be able to decide which role to take. What I realized was that the great roles are few and far between.

OCR: Are you saying that the Oscar didn't open doors for you?

SWANK: It did open incredible doors, but not the kind of earth-shattering roles I expected. Not to take anything away from "Insomnia," "Iron-Jawed Angels" and some other challenging movies.

OCR: And yet, with "Million Dollar Baby," you did end up with one of those earth-shattering roles.

SWANK: And I can't believe it's only five years later. I was starting to believe it might be every 25 years.

OCR: How did you react when you heard the role was a boxer?

SWANK: I was thrilled. I love any chance I get to explore another world or push myself to the limit.

OCR: So you read the script and thought: "Oh, here's another Oscar nomination?"

SWANK: No. I'd never think that. I laughed. I cried, I was inspired, I felt connected. I felt really connected to the character.

OCR: Why?

SWANK: She grew up poor in a trailer park. I grew up poor in a trailer park. She had a dream. I had a dream. She is disciplined, focused and lucky. All those apply to me.

OCR: Were you disappointed that you had to work with a couple of backs like Clint Eastwood and Morgan Freeman?

SWANK: (laughing): Yeah, it was a shame I had to settle for them.



Hilary Swank arrives at the Screen Actors Guild Awards ceremony, held Feb. 5 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. She won SAG's Best Actress category for her role in "Million Dollar Baby."

OCR: Seriously, what does it mean to work with people of that caliber?

SWANK: It is literally a dream come true. I feel I've grown from the experience, not only as an actor but as a human being.

OCR: What does Clint as a director bring to the set?

SWANK: You know you're in the hands of an icon who has proven himself over and over again, so you don't question. You just trust everything. He is confident and knows what he wants, but not in an arrogant way. You never feel like he's forcing his decisions upon you.

OCR: I know you trained very hard to look believable as a boxer, and eventually gained 19 pounds of muscle. By the end of your training, could you beat up your husband, Chad Lowe?

SWANK: Probably.

TLC searching for new voice

TLC group members Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins and Rozonda "Chilli" Thomas are returning to the city where they got their start to find a new voice to sing with.

Auditions have been held across the country for UPN's new reality show, "R U The Girl with T-Boz & Chilli," but Atlanta's stop Saturday was the first the singers were to attend in person.

In 2002, the group was devastated by member Lisa "Left-Eye" Lopes' death in a car crash. Since then, the four-time Grammy-winning group whose hits include "Waterfalls," "Creep" and "No Scrubs," has not released new material.

Watkins and Thomas say they're not trying to replace Lopes.

"Nothing has changed. We're not replacing Lisa," Thomas told said last year. "We're not looking for a new member."

The person chosen through the show will perform with the duo during a one-time concert and for a recorded song on their greatest hits project.



Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins, left, and Rozonda "Chilli" Thomas

Trump congratulates industrious teens

Donald Trump wrote a congratulatory letter to a group of teenagers who used the NBC reality show "The Apprentice" as a model to raise about \$23,000 for tsunami victims.

"I am very pleased to hear about the enthusiasm and success of the high school children in this endeavor, and would like to thank you for sharing it with me," Trump wrote in response to a letter from Rabbi Victor Urecki informing him of the FNWai-Jacob Synagogue Youth Discussion Group's project in Charleston, W.Va.

Urecki said 23 teens formed two corporations, Gladiators and Yaffa Corp., and competed to raise the most money. The winners' prize was to be dinner at a nice restaurant while the losers were to get Slurpees.

The teens had hoped to raise \$5,000 through fund-raising activities including a raffle and a silent auction. In the end, their total was almost \$23,000 and only \$2 separated the teams. So everyone was treated to dinner.

Destiny's Child to kick off world tour

Destiny's Child is embarking on a world tour — and heading out straight through the golden arches.

The R&B trio will kick off a 16-country, 72-city tour April 9 in Hiroshima, Japan, the group announced. The tour, "Destiny Fulfilled... and lovin' it," is sponsored by McDonald's.

"Our 2005 tour is going to be amazing and will really entertain our fans across the globe," Beyoncé said in a statement Thursday.

After Japan, Destiny's Child will perform throughout Australia and Europe and eventually conclude in the United States and Canada this summer. Stops include Dubai in the United Arab Emirates; Stockholm, Sweden; Milan, Italy; Paris; and London.

They will play 44 North America cities, finishing in Honolulu in September.

'Hitch' star offers dating advice

Fresh from the No. 1 debut of his first romantic comedy, "Hitch," Will Smith has a little advice for that all-important first date.

"Competence is first and foremost," Smith said Friday as the movie screened at the Berlin International Film Festival.

"If you're a great tennis player, you want to be seen on your first date playing tennis," he said.

"You don't want to be the guy that, you go to the sushi restaurant, you've never been there and you don't know anything about sushi."

"Hitch" took in an estimated \$45.3 million in the United States over the Valentine's Day weekend, making it No. 1 at the box office.

Action hero Smith stars as a Manhattan "date doctor" who helps hopeless men win the hearts of their dream women, but has romantic troubles when he meets his own soul mate, played by Eva Mendes.

Stories and photos from the Associated Press

Horoscope

The Leo moon has a big personality, like a friend who exaggerates the truth and whom you regularly forgive for doing so because he or she is so entertaining in the process. The child inside each of us is featured and likely will be acting out, which doesn't have to be disastrous. With the right attitude, this is the most creative day of the week.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(February 22). There's no end to your creativity this year. Talent makes you attractive to potential partners, and you'll be encouraged to make a choice for your love life in April. Marriage is featured in July. Your new approach to work brings in more money this summer. Hard work will be required, and there's no getting around it. Love signs are Virgo and Libra.

Holiday Mathis



io. No wonder people are drawn in by your wry humor. Keep it up, and you'll wind up attracting a new admirer or a secret crush.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You're figuring out whether or not to get involved with other people's problems. You identify with a friend's struggle, but you can't help but stand back and smile his or her ridiculous foibles.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Today packs a mixed bag of emotions. The teenage drama queen in you feels that your entire life is devoted to an elusive pursuit. Calm down, and treat yourself kindly. There's a different way to see things.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's more support for your ideas than you previously thought. Today features a silent partner or someone pulling for you behind the scenes. It's good to know you're not alone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

No matter how you start, you'll wind up at the same place — your destiny. Expanding your awareness of the world gives you new purpose. Set out with no other agenda except to soak in something new.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

The very work that you consider draining is actually energizing to someone else. This fact may be unbelievable to you now, but if you're open to the idea, you may just find someone to take over a tedious task for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You get a much better picture of the reality of a complicated situation. Sit with the new information — let it mellow in your mind. Make no snap judgments. Allow your inner wise man some breathing room on this one.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

You get a much better picture of the reality of a complicated situation. Sit with the new information — let it mellow in your mind. Make no snap judgments. Allow your inner wise man some breathing room on this one.

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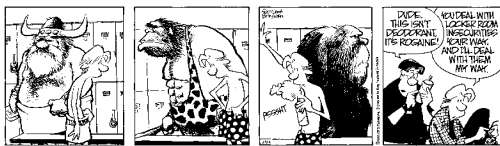
Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



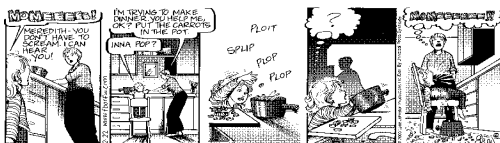
Beetle Bailey



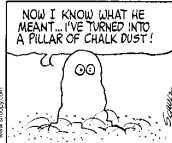
Red and Rover



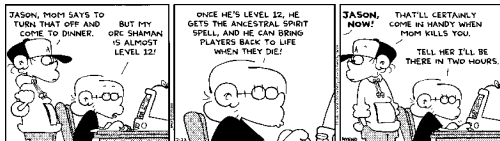
Better or Worse



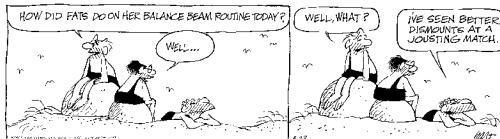
Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



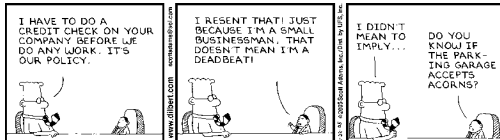
Spider Man



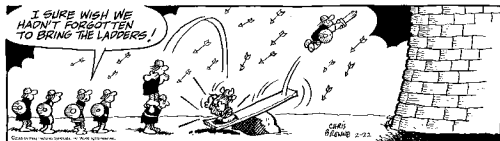
Blondie



Dilbert



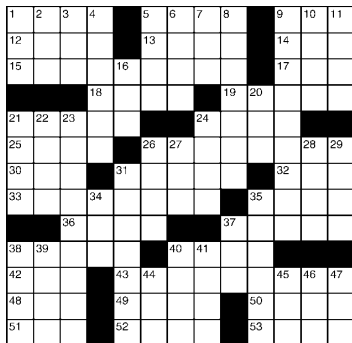
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Mexican entree
- 5 Prunes
- 9 Snoop Dogg's genre
- 12 "Bonanza" brother
- 13 Part of the foot
- 14 "— was saying, ..."
- 15 Georgia school
- 17 Pooch
- 18 Contact, for one
- 19 Enjoinment
- 21 Fluctuate
- 24 Chime
- 25 Egress
- 26 Bee activity
- 30 The whole shooting match
- 31 Basin accessories
- 32 "To Wong —, ..."
- 33 Tension relief
- 35 Frizzo do
- 36 "— for All Seasons"
- 37 Moolah
- 38 Jeans material
- 42 Altar affirmative
- 43 New Jersey school
- 48 Actress Ullmann
- 49 Host Jay
- 50 Vacillate
- 51 Meadow
- 52 Paradise
- 53 Went like 90

Down

- 1 Highlander's topper
- 2 Big bother
- 3 Daytona entry
- 4 Brunch offering
- 5 "The — King"
- 7 Home-office eqpt.
- 8 Money of Israel
- 9 Massachusetts school
- 10 "Dilbert" intern
- 11 Swine
- 16 Part of H.R.H.
- 20 Under the weather
- 21 Have on
- 22 Wheelbase terminus
- 23 Pennsylvania school
- 24 Ernie's buddy
- 26 Former ugly duckling
- 27 Place for 11-Down
- 28 Asta's mistress
- 29 Suitable
- 31 Instance
- 34 Chartres chum
- 35 Collar
- 37 Paper Mate rival
- 38 Pickle type
- 39 Falco of "The Sopranos"
- 40 Language
- 41 Unsigned (Abbr.)
- 44 Roulette bet
- 45 Snake eyes
- 46 Skull tool
- 47 Comedian Louis

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-22

CRYPTOQUIP

T Q Q B U S C R T R S K O
U S Q V O T A L E Y L K Q Y X V V S C R
I T R . S H A X B O E I L Q L L C

T Q T H X H L - T O O O X Q Q .

Yesterday's Cryptquip: I GUESS THE WORLD'S SECOND-BEST WRITING IMPLEMENT COULD BE CALLED THE PEN ULTIMATE.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: V equals P

Modern morals spark family fued

Dear Abby: My husband and I have been married for 55 years more than half a century. We come from a generation where living together and having children before marriage was unthinkable.

Our 21-year-old granddaughter, "Stella," and her boyfriend moved in together two years ago, in what they called a "trial marriage." Last month, Stella gave birth to a baby girl and sent my husband and me a birth announcement.

We mailed it back with a note telling Stella we were ashamed of their conduct and lack of morals. We also told them their reasoning to celebrate about this birth of an out-of-wedlock child.

Four days later, my daughter (Stella's mother) phoned us in a rage. She said things are different nowadays and we have no right to impose our "outdated moral values" on their daughter

and her boyfriend. My daughter insists we owe them an apology. She says we are out of line. Your opinion, please.

— **Standing by Our Convictions**
In Arizona
Dear Standing: It's time to face the fact that a sizable number of younger people feel differently today.

Dear Abby



Your moral values are not outdated, but you do owe the couple an apology for lashing out at them in anger. It was cruel to have returned the birth announcement and told your granddaughter that the birth of her daughter was nothing to celebrate. Simply not responding at all would have signaled your disapproval and been much kinder.

Dear Abby: I know that good Christians are supposed to practice forgiveness, but it's not always easy to do. My husband, "Carl," has been having an

off-and-on affair with my brother's wife, "Joanne."

I found out when I accidentally caught them together. We've been married for 36 years and have raised three boys and two girls together. Carl is begging me to give him another chance, but how can I ever trust him again?

— **Disillusioned Wife**

In Delaware
Dear Disillusioned: You have everything to gain and nothing to lose if you give it a try. Although your hurt and distrust are understandable, it isn't late to salvage your marriage if you are both willing to work at it. Take a fresh look at your lives, recommit yourselves to each other and promise to spend the rest of your days making each other happy. It may not be easy at first, but other couples have succeeded, and you can, too.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 68440, Los Angeles, CA 90068. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KARCC
□ □ □ □ □

WYLLO
□ □ □ □ □

KROMES
□ □ □ □ □

POURRA
□ □ □ □ □

Answer: "CLOCK" "WYLL" "KROCK" "POUR" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLAME YOKEL EULOGY FROTHY
Answer: What the farmer gave the hired hands — A LOFTY GOAL

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Minimize stress dealing with Dad

Dear Annie: I am writing today because I don't know where else to turn. My father and I have an estranged relationship. He wants to communicate with me, but I do not share his need.

My parents divorced because Dad cheated on Mom. He rarely showed any interest in me and often paid more attention to the children of the women he was dating. To be honest, I loved my father more when I knew him from a distance. But then my mom died, and I was forced to live with him. After years of mental and physical abuse, watching him cheat on his girlfriends and wives, my love for my father eroded to the point where I moved to another state to get away from him.

In the past few years, my father has tried to contact me. I have changed my number several times, but he continues to get the listing from my stepbrothers. Even though I have begged them

Annie's Mailbox



not to do this, they feel guilty and always give him the information. I really don't want to talk to him.

The scars from the past run so deep that I have had trouble breathing when I've been "guilted" into calling him. So now I turn to you. What do I do?

— **Hidden in Minnesota**

Dear Hidden: First, are you absolutely certain you don't want to give your father another chance? He is getting older and may value his relationship with you enough to make changes. If that is not an option, let an answering machine screen all of your calls, and since you are "guilted" into contacting him on occasion, we suggest sending a card instead, since talking on the phone is so stressful. You also might want to consider therapy so those old scars can finally heal.

Dear Annie: We have been

invited to our niece's wedding in Costa Rica. Not attending is out of the question. However, it will cost over \$5,000 for the four members of my immediate family. While we, will have a short vacation, we didn't get to select when or where, and the timing is extremely inconvenient.

Normally we would give a sizeable present. Is that still a reasonable expectation, or is a token gift enough?

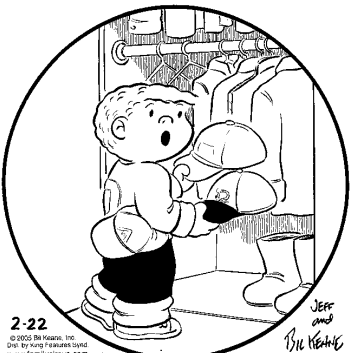
— **Perplexed Guest**

Dear Guest: One gives as much as one wishes, and what one can afford. The location of the wedding should have no bearing on the gift, although obviously, when you are out-of-pocket \$5,000, you are less inclined to be extravagant. But you can still give something nice without robbing the kids' college fund.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniemailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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Family Circus

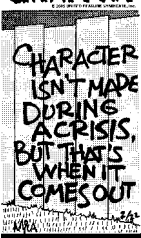


2-22

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"Is one of these s'posed to be my thinking cap?"

GRAFFITI

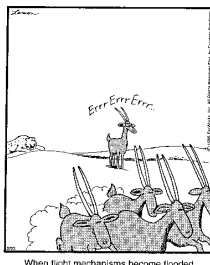


Dennis the Menace



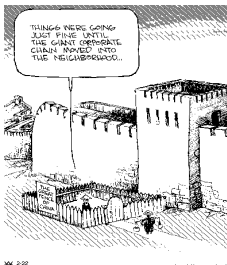
© Gary Larson

The Far Side



When fight mechanisms become flooded

Non Sequitur



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Scott wins rain-shortened Nissan Open in playoff

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Adam Scott made a 4-foot par putt on the 18th hole Monday morning to beat Chad Campbell in a sudden-death playoff in the Nissan Open, the first PGA Tour event in nine years to be cut to 36 holes.

The playoff came shortly after the final two rounds were canceled because of rain that saturated Riviera Country Club, leaving Scott and Campbell to play for the difference of \$386,000.

Scott earned \$864,000 and moved up to No. 7 in the world ranking, his highest spot. But because the tournament was only 36 holes, he will not get credit for an official victory.

"I don't feel like I played much golf this week," Scott said.

"I don't feel tired and drained like you normally do when you've been battling."

But he has his name on the trophy, thanks to his second crucial putt in as many days.

Scott finished off his second round Sunday with a 20-foot birdie putt on the ninth hole for a 5-under 65 that enabled him to join Campbell in the lead at 9-under 133.

Campbell shot 65 in the second round, but he finished on the Friday.

Rain washed out play Saturday, and the scheduled play Sunday just as Campbell arrived at Riviera.

Playing for the first time in three days, Campbell laced a drive down the middle of the fairway. His 5-wood was right of the green, and after getting relief from a puddle, he chipped 5 feet past the hole. His par putt caught the left, and Scott rolled in his 4-footer.

"It's been a tough week, a very unusual week," Scott said. "I knew what I had to do back there on the ninth, and it worked out in the end."

The last 36-hole winner on the



Tony Navarro, left foreground, caddy for Adam Scott of Australia, right, holds the umbrella at the 18th tee prior to Scott's playoff win over Chad Campbell, second from right, in the rain-shortened Nissan Open.

PGA Tour was Michael Bradley in the 1996 Buick Challenge at Callaway Gardens, a tournament that no longer exists. He won in a five-way playoff.

Other players to have won after only two rounds on the PGA Tour were Brian Henninger at the 1994 Southern Farm Bureau Classic and Neal Lancaster at the 1994 Byron Nelson Championship, a victory that was known as the half-Nelson.

But those counted in the record books.

Several years ago, the PGA Tour decided that only 54-hole tournaments could be deemed official.

Scott's money does count toward the PGA Tour money list, and Scott moved up to No. 4. He received 75 percent of the world ranking points, pushing him up to No. 7.

It wasn't the best start for Scott. He hooked his tee shot into the left rough, leaving him a sidehill lie from 218 yards away in a cold, steady rain. He hit 3-wood to the front edge of the green, some 80 feet short of the hole, then chipped to 4 feet.

Scott felt for Campbell, who had the entire weekend off because of the rain.

"He hasn't hit a shot or a putt in two days," Scott said.

"And he's got a slider for his first putt. That's a tough ask."

Campbell made no excuses. Standing on the range, as he and Scott warmed up in solitude with their caddies standing over with umbrellas, Campbell said, "I could use a 300-yard rope."

"It was a perfect 5-wood. I just hit it a little right," Campbell said. "The putt was outside left, and I just hit it a little bit firm."

The third round was to resume at 7:30 a.m. PST, but 2 inches of rain fell overnight and the forecast looked even worse. PGA Tour tournament director Mark Russell met with the players in

the locker room and told them it was over, except for Scott and Campbell.

That was bad news for Darren Clarke and Brian Davis, who were one shot behind, and a big blow to Colin Montgomerie, who has never won a PGA Tour event and finished his 36 holes just two shots back.

And it ended any chance for Tiger Woods to return to No. 1 in the world this week. He needed to finish fourth to replace Vijay Singh, and ended this week in a tie for 13th, four shots out of the lead.

Woods probably would have to win the Match Play Championship at La Costa later this week for the third straight year to reclaim No. 1.

As players cleaned out their lockers, some of them heading down the coast to La Costa, Campbell and Scott got out their rain gear and waited for the range to open so they could warm up.

And even though the tournament is unofficial, it ends Mike Weir's two-year reign as the champion. The Canadian was trying to become the first player in Nissan Open history to win three straight times. He was at 2-under 140, seven shots out of the lead.

"Obviously, I was hoping for 36 more holes," Weir said. "It would have been tough to make that up in one round."

The 18th hole was chosen for the playoff, the one hole at Riviera that doesn't have a bunker in the landing area off the tee or surrounding rough.

Scott ran into Robert Allenby in the locker room, a fellow Aussie who won the 2001 Nissan Open in a six-way playoff by hitting 3-wood from 225 yards into 5 feet.

"I said, 'Driver, 3-wood and a putt,'" Scott said. "His was about 6 feet, mine was about 86 feet."

Ultimately, he got the trophy — just not a victory in the record books.

German federation wants life ban for corrupt soccer referee

The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — The German soccer federation has asked for a lifetime ban and a hefty fine for the referee who admitted fixing games.

The federation (DFB) filed charges in its sports court Monday against Robert Hoyzer, who admitted he was paid more than \$65,000 to manipulate games in the biggest German soccer corruption scandal in more than 30 years.

Hoyzer was arrested, along with three Croatian brothers suspected of masterminding the scam. Berlin prosecutors are investigating 25 people, including 14 players and four referees, suspected of rigging at least 10 games, mostly in lower divisions.

The federation said the gravity of Hoyzer's "greed-driven" actions required a lifetime ban from soccer and \$65,000 fine.

Apart from soccer sanctions, Hoyzer faces up to 10 years in

Sports briefs

prison if charged and convicted of fraud.

The federation has already pledged \$2.6 million in compensation to a first-division club, Hamburger SV, which lost a German Cup match because of Hoyzer's manipulation.

A second-division match will be replayed and 13 more matches are under appeal.

Mississippi State's Roberts day to state with thigh injury

STARKVILLE, Miss. — Mississippi State star forward Lawrence Roberts is day to day after injuring his leg at Kentucky on Saturday night.

Roberts bruised and strained his right quadriceps in the second half of the Bulldogs' 94-78 loss. Coach Rick Stansbury wasn't sure if Roberts would play at Georgia on Wednesday.

"I don't know that status right now at all," Stansbury said Monday. "We don't think it's any ligaments, but [his status] is totally up in the air right now."

Roberts, the Southeastern Conference's fourth-leading scorer and top rebounder, got tangled up with Kentucky's Ramel Bradley with 7:45 left and fell to the floor, clutching his right knee. He did not return.

He initially feared he had torn knee ligaments, and after the game Stansbury said he thought Roberts had broken his knee.

Trainers later said the injury wasn't as serious as first thought.

Roberts leads the Bulldogs (18-8, 6-6 SEC) with 17.4 points and 11 rebounds per game.

Report: Sprinters implicated doctor in BALCO scandal

SAN FRANCISCO — Disgraced sprinter Kelli White, one of several athletes at the center of the BALCO scandal, claims a doc-

tor diagnosed her with narcolepsy to cover up her use of a banned stimulant — even though she never had the sleep disorder, the San Francisco Chronicle reported on its Web site Monday.

The paper, quoting grand jury transcripts, also said team champion sprinter Tim Montgomery testified that Dr. Brian Goldman wrote a steroids prescription for him under a false name so it wouldn't be traceable.

White told the newspaper that Goldman publicly stated she had a sleep disorder, but that was part of a false story devised by Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative head Victor Conte. In August 2003, White tested positive for modafinil after winning gold medals in the 100- and 200-meter sprints during the World Track and Field Championships in Paris. Last year, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency suspended White from competition for two years.

According to White, within hours of testing positive, she phoned Conte, who was her husband, and he told her to issue the false statement saying she took the drug for narcolepsy.

"It sounded good," White told the Chronicle. "It was a story that Victor told me to use."

White said Goldman called her soon after and helped make up the story for the press conference on Aug. 30, 2003.

"And then I was my first time ever meeting, or speaking, to Dr. Goldman," White told the Chronicle.

White admitted to taking illegal performance-enhancing drugs in May 2004, and accepted a two-year drug ban that cost her a trip to the Athens Olympics and every medal she'd won in the previous four years.

Goldman was an associate of Conte, who, along with three others, were indicted in U.S. District Court in San Francisco on herid conspiracy charges. All have pleaded not guilty. Goldman, a psychiatrist, hasn't been charged.

Redick, Duke rebound to knock off Demons

The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — In the first and likely only start of his career, Patrick Davidson scored the emotional tone for Duke. He manhandled Wake Forest guard Chris Paul on the opening possession, bumping him wildly before a foul was called.

He left the game after two minutes to a rousing ovation and got a warm embrace from Blue Devils coach Mike Krzyzewski, who left no doubts about how important this game was.

"It's something I'll never forget," Davidson said.

J.J. Redick was pretty memorable himself.

The junior guard scored a career-high 36 points after Coach K shook up the starting lineup, and reserve Lee Melchioni added 15 to lead the seventh-ranked Blue Devils past No. 5 Wake Forest 102-92 Sunday night.

Duke (19-4, 9-4 Atlantic Coast Conference), coming off consecutive losses for only the fourth time in the past eight seasons, had its way with the Demon Deacons in the second half.

After trailing by two at the break, the Blue Devils shot 61 percent in the final 20 minutes to reach their highest point total of the season.

"It was as good as our offense has looked all year, and it wasn't one guy or just me," Redick said. "It was everybody."

Chris Paul had 27 points and Trent Strickland scored 17 for Wake Forest (22-4, 10-3), which fell out of a first-place tie with North Carolina.

Duke center Shelden Williams more than held his own in the matchup with Eric Williams, finishing with 12 points, nine rebounds and four blocks. And Melchioni, a junior who played very little during his first two seasons, came up with big play after big play when the Blue Devils needed it most.

He came in averaging only 6.8 points a game, but beat that total during a 90-second

span of the second half. The left-hander swished a three-pointer for a five-point lead, jumped in the passing lane for a steal that led to his own dunk, then spun in the paint for a short jumper.

"We feed off our defense as an offensive team," Melchioni said. "We really executed that."

On the other end, he drew a charge from Wake Forest guard Justin Gray, who went to the bench with his fourth foul with 14½ minutes left. Duke eventually went ahead 88-69 before the Deacons staged a furious rally to make the final respectable, getting within seven with 1:15 remaining.

The Blue Devils closed it out at the free throw line to win for only the third time in the past six games. They last lost three in a row to complete the 1995-96 season.

"It was the most competitive game we've been in in maybe a couple of years," Krzyzewski said. "Both teams just wanted it so badly. And they are just outstanding."

No. 10 Arizona 91, Oregon St. 70: At Tucson, Ariz., Salim Stoudamire sank a school record nine three-pointers and scored 31 points in his final home game, as the Wildcats won their sixth in a row.

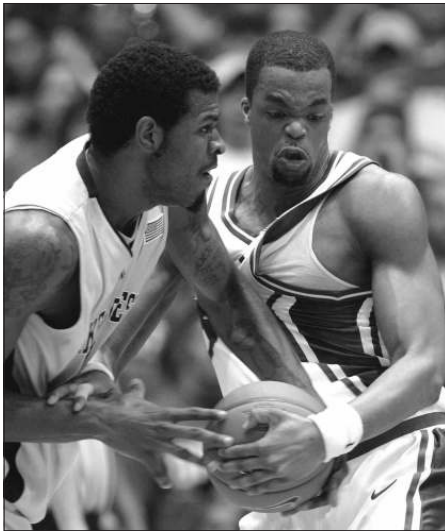
Channing Frye added 15 points and 11 rebounds as the Wildcats stayed alone in first place in the Pac-10. Stoudamire and Frye, both seniors in their last contest at McKale Center, left the game with 9:43 to play and Arizona leading 74-49.

Hassan Adams had 13 points and tied his season high with 10 rebounds for the Wildcats (23-4, 13-2 Pac-10), who finished 15-1 at home. Ivan Radevich added 10 points.

Nick DeWitz and Jason Fontenot scored 16 and David Lucas had 15 for the Beavers (14-11, 6-8), who fell to 0-7 on the road in the Pac-10.

Stoudamire, 9-for-14 on three-pointers, broke Jason Gardner's school record of eight, set against Kansas on Dec. 1, 2001.

A 55 percent three-point shooter this season — tied for first in Division I — Stoudamire was 5-for-9 on three's in the final 6:16 of the first half to put Arizona up



Duke's Shelden Williams, right, steals the ball from Wake Forest's Eric Williams during the first half at Cameron Indoor Stadium in Durham, N.C. on Sunday.

45-33 at the break.

No. 12 Louisville 84, Saint Louis 66: Taquan Dean made five three-pointers and host Louisville put together its best offensive performance in weeks.

Larry O'Bannon scored 17, Francisco Garcia added 13, and Ellis Myles finished with 13 points and 18 rebounds for the Cardinals (23-4, 11-2 Conference USA), who finished with their highest point total since a 105-69 win over Tulane on Jan. 29.

Louisville shot 30-for-61 for 49.2 percent, its best since converting 53 percent in a 99-52 win over Marquette on Jan. 26.

Izik Ohanon scored 18 to lead Saint Louis (7-18, 4-8), which played most of the game without Coach Brad Soderberg, who was ejected in the first half.

No. 25 Villanova 80, No. 17 Pittsburgh 72: Allan Ray hit five three-pointers and scored 21 of his 23 points in the second half to lift host Villanova.

Curtis Sumpter scored 18 points, Randy Foye added 15 and Villanova went 12-for-23 from three-point range, helping the Wildcats (17-6, 7-5 Big East) win for the eighth time in 10 games and bolstering their chances of making their first NCAA tournament appearance since 1999.

Calhoun, Dumars, Wilkins named finalists for Hall

The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Big East coaching rivals Jim Calhoun and former NBA stars Joe Dumars and Dominique Wilkins are finalists for election into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Calhoun is being put for a second try, and Hubie Brown was named a finalist for the first time, as a contributor to the game. The 16 finalists were announced Sunday, and this year's class will be presented April 4 at the NCAA Final Four in St. Louis.

Previous finalists Bernard King, Maurice Cheeks, Adrian Dantley, Dennis Johnson, and Chet Walker are back on the ballot this year.

Wilkins and Dumars are finalists in their first year of consideration, as are women's coaches Van Chancellor and Sue Gunter.

Italian coach Sandro Gamba, Brazilian player Hortencia Mar-

"There has been no greater recognition personally than to be told I am a Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame finalist."

Jim Calhoun

Connecticut basketball coach

car; player John Issacs; and contributor John Kerr from the Veterans Screening Committee round out the list.

Induction requires 18 of 24 votes from the Hall of Fame's Honors Committee.

Boeheim and Calhoun are both closing in on 700 career victories.

Calhoun has led Connecticut to two NCAA championships (1999, 2004), eight Big East regular-season tournaments.

"The phenomenal team successes we've had over the years, the championships we've won, and the wonderful young men I've been fortunate enough to coach, have been a source of great personal pride for me," Calhoun said. "But, there has been no greater recognition personally than to be told I am a Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame finalist."

Boeheim and Syracuse won the NCAA championship in 2003, and have eight Big East regular-season championships. Under Boeheim, Syracuse has made 23 NCAA tournament appearances and has been to the Final Four three times.

Dumars played his entire professional career for the Detroit Pistons, and helped them win

back-to-back NBA championships (1989, 1990). He currently is president of basketball operations for the Pistons, credited for assembling the team that won the 2004 NBA title.

Dumars was a six-time NBA All-Star and MVP of the 1989 NBA Finals.

Wilkins' above-the-rim acrobatics earned him the nickname "The Human Highlight Film."

A prolific scorer, Wilkins played most of his NBA career for the Atlanta Hawks (1982-93), who retired his jersey. He also played for the Los Angeles Clippers, Boston Celtics, San Antonio Spurs and Orlando Magic. Wilkins was a nine-time NBA All-Star, and a two-time NBA Slam Dunk champion.

Brown's career touches nearly every aspect of the game. He's been NBA Coach of the Year twice (1978 in Atlanta, 2004 in Memphis), and is well-known as a TV analyst. Eight of his former as-

sistants have gone on to become head coaches in the NBA.

Chancellor and Gunter were named finalists from the Women's Selection Committee.

Chancellor led the Houston Comets to four straight WNBA titles (1997-2000) and won 439 games as the head women's coach at Ole Miss (1978-1997). Gunter coached LSU for 22 seasons (1982-2004) and spent 16 seasons at Stephen F. Austin (1964-1980) and coached her coaching career at Middle Tennessee State (1962-1964). She is the third-winningest coach in women's NCAA history with 708 wins, and led LSU to 14 NCAA tournament berths, including one Final Four appearance.

Candidates remain eligible until going three consecutive years without receiving a vote from the screening committee. At that point, a nominee is removed from consideration for five years before he or she can be nominated again.



Alex Rodriguez fields a ball during an afternoon practice after his arrival at Yankees training camp Sunday.

Rodriguez doesn't feel need to defend himself from insults

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Alex Rodriguez walked into the New York Yankees clubhouse for the first time since the Boston Red Sox made a stream of critical comments, and the third baseman suggested how his reaction would be portrayed: "A-Rod doesn't back up A-Rod."

Boston's bulls-eye arrived at spring training Sunday, and the biggest target of the Evil Empire declined to strike back. He even concurred on one of the salvos.

"As far as earning your stripes, I really couldn't agree [more] with Trot Nixon and the guys that have said that because hopefully in due time, when I pay the price like Paul O'Neill and Roger Clemens did, then the fans of New York would realize that, hopefully, I'm a Yankee," Rodriguez said.

Reporting two days ahead of the first full-squad workout, Rodriguez said he had not been keeping up with what he called the "bulletin board stuff," relating how he was occupied with his 3-month-old daughter and illnesses to two family members.

Yet, he was aware of at least a few of the zingers fired from Fort Myers, where the World Series champions opened camp last week.

The \$252 million man said the attacks were "a little perplexing." "The bottom line is they won. They've earned the right to say whatever they need to say," Rodriguez said.

Dressed in a white polo shirt and blue jeans, he spoke with reporters in the Yankees clubhouse at Legends Field, then did another interview for television cameras in the dugout. He walked onto the field to cheers from the fans in the stands and spent four min-

utes signing autographs. Across the street at the minor league complex, he homered on 15 of 67 swings against Yankees executive Mark Newman.

Usually, Rodriguez sounded quite polished. He didn't mind that none of his teammates responded to the Red Sox.

"It just tells you how classy our organization is. Our players, they don't get caught up in that everyday stuff," he said. "And I appreciate their position. I'm going to say the same thing, probably. They'll say that I'm not supporting my self. And that will probably be a big deal, too."

Ever since he hit 2-for-17 in the final four games of the playoff loss to Boston, Rodriguez has indicted himself for the defeat.

"Blame it on me. If there's one guy to blame, you've got to look right here," he said.

He treats the sniping, which has been front- and back-page news, as trivial.

"I think all of this is good for the game, believe it or not, as funny as it may be," he said. He made light of the ship slip in Game 6 of the AL championship series, when he hit an infield dribbler, swatted at pitcher Bronson Arroyo's glove and knocked the ball loose. After umpires huddled, he was called out for interference. Rodriguez said "it took a lot of guts" for theumps to make that call in Yankee Stadium.

After Arroyo hit him with a pitch last July, still, he got his first name wrong.

"It's probably intentional. I would think," Arroyo said. "I heard he's a student of the game. It could have been a simple mistake, but I doubt it. Who knows? Maybe he thinks I'm a nobody."

Kevin Millar also took a shot at A-Rod on Sunday.

"Derek Jeter is the Yankees, period," Millar said. "A-Rod's salary doesn't dictate that he's a Yankee. Making \$25 million doesn't mean he's a Yankee."

Jose Canseco got involved too, calling Rodriguez "a phony" in his autobiography.

"With my new life and my daughter being born, you realize you only care about the opinions of those who are really in your intimate circle," A-Rod said. "I don't consider Jose to be in that circle."

After New York acquired Rodriguez from Texas last February, the 2003 AL MVP struggled to achieve the level of performance he expects. He didn't hit well with runners in scoring position until the final weeks of the season.

"It seemed the first four, five months I felt very uncomfortable, even within my own skin, still walking around, sitting around, walking around the city of Manhattan," Rodriguez said. "But once September and October came around, I felt great."

Out in the dugout, Rodriguez said winning would stop the talk and earn him his place alongside the other Yankees greats.

"I was brought in here to be the final piece, to be a world champion, and I came up short," he said. "It's something I find I have to do and will do to earn my pinstripes."

AP Sports Writer Howard Ulman in Fort Myers contributed to this report.

A-Rod reports, still Sox's lightning rod

BY HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Another day, another shot at A-Rod.

Kevin Millar became the sixth Red Sox player in six days to criticize Alex Rodriguez for boasting about his workout routine and not measuring up to Derek Jeter as a "Yankee type."

On Sunday, A-Rod was still a lightning rod when the mouthy Millar got rolling.

"Derek Jeter is the Yankees, period," Millar said. "A-Rod's salary doesn't dictate that he's a Yankee. Making \$25 million doesn't mean he's a Yankee."

"I don't know him," he said, taking a break from shaving down his bat handle at his locker. "I know one thing. A lot of us in this locker room, we watch a guy like Derek Jeter play over and over, and he's a winner."

"And then I think, I don't know if the guy [Rodriguez] grasped for the respect or whatever, but you don't need to tell people you're an upper tier player. You don't need to tell people that you work out seven hours a day."

Rodriguez, obtained by New York before last season after Boston's bid for him failed, said in an interview last month that he leaves his house by 7 a.m. to work out while other players are sleeping or taking their children to school.

That's the article that rubbed guys wrong," said Millar, who works out two hours a day in the winter. "When you're a professional, you do your work. Everybody in this game wants out in the offseason."

"You're not going around having to promote and I think that's where we've got so much respect for Derek Jeter. I don't know Alex Rodriguez, if he's selfish or anything, so it would be unfair for me to say that."

Rodriguez reported to the Yankees camp in Tampa on Sunday and indicated he would tone down talk about his training regimen.

"I'm proud of my workouts, kind of just like Roger [Clemens] was proud of his workouts, and I saw Jerry Rice do his thing," he said. "Eleven years, the first time I've even talked about it."

"That will be the last, too." He may not have heard the last from the Red Sox. With career stars David Ortiz and Johnny Damon due to report with other position players Monday, the hits could keep coming.

But not from manager Terry Francona.

"I will never make a comment about another team," he said, "and I don't want to make a comment about one of our play-



Manager Terry Francona, left, greets Red Sox first baseman Kevin Millar at spring training.

ers that made a comment about somebody else when I don't know what happened."

The spring training sniping began Tuesday when Boston right fielder Trot Nixon said in response to Rodriguez' interview, "Well, I'm not a deadbeat dad, you clown. That's what I say to myself. What's wrong with me taking my kid to school and then going to work hours a day?"

Since then, Curt Schilling, David Wells, Ronson Arroyo and Jason Varitek have criticized Rodriguez, directly or subtly.

Like Nixon said, [Jorge] Posada, Derek Jeter, Bernie Williams, you don't hear anything. Who's the one guy you hear something [from] over there?" Millar said. "You never see Jeter involved with anything but worrying about winning."

Kevin Millar
Red Sox first baseman

"You never see him out on a face mask in front of anybody," he added. "I play first base. I talk to everybody in the big leagues."

"You know who's fake, you know who's not."

Does he talk to Rodriguez at first? "Not much," Millar said.

There were times over the winter when Millar didn't know if he'd be back in the Red Sox clubhouse. Then they traded Doug Mientkiewicz, their other first baseman, to the New York Mets on Jan. 26, one day after Florida signed free agent first baseman Carlos Delgado.

"I wanted to play here, so it was scary" before those moves, Millar said. "When you put on a Red Sox jersey, it puts a little sparkle in your eye."

The Yankees pinstripes represent a much more successful tradition, but the Red Sox are champions for the first time in 86 years. The Yankees won 26 World Series between those Boston titles.

"The Yankees are awesome. They're a great organization," Millar said. "I think what we do is pretty awesome."

Cardinals trying to manage Pujols' injury

The Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. — Cardinals first baseman Albert Pujols has no plans to take it easy during spring training, even though his running might be restricted because of a heel injury that hindered him much of last season.

"I'm going to go out and try to win a job," he said Sunday after reporting to camp at Roger Dean Stadium, where pitchers and catchers were working out.

Position players are due Tuesday but Pujols was early along with several other veterans, including Jim Edmonds and Larry Walker.

Pujols, third in the National League MVP voting last year behind Barry Bonds and Adrian Beltré, has chronic plantar fasciitis, a condition more commonly associated with long-distance running.

Pujols is affected most when he runs the bases aggressively, though the injury didn't stop him from racking up stats last year.

While leading the Cardinals to the National League title, Pujols batted .331 with 46 home runs and 123 RBIs. He's the only player in major league history to hit 30 or more homers in his first four seasons.

After the season, Pujols underwent sound wave treatment on his left heel. He was feeling much better in the weeks after the treat-



Briefs

ment, but started having trouble again in January and underwent a second treatment.

Pujols doesn't know what started the injury.

"It just started hurting and never stopped," he said.

Though Pujols doesn't plan to take it easy, he will be careful.

"The injury will be in the back of my mind, and I want to be smart about it," Pujols said. "If it comes to the point that I am going through the pain that I went through last season, I don't think I can do it. I'll have to take some time off."

That's something he didn't do last summer when the pain sometimes hobbled him.

"We saw another side of Albert last year," manager Tony La Russa said. "He is working with a guaranteed contract and it could have been easy for him to say, 'Hey, why do I have to be out there?' But Albert wants to win."

The Cardinals will monitor how much running Pujols does this spring, and he may sit out some drills.

"He really likes to run hard because he wants to show people he is hustling all the time," La Russa said. "But now he has to be smart

about it. There may be times when he has to gear down a little bit."

Rangers' Greer retires

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Texas Rangers outfielder Rusty Greer has given up his comeback attempt and retired, nearly three years after playing his last game.

Greer's all-out, aggressive style made him a fan favorite during his nine playing seasons (1994-2002), which included the team's only three American League West titles. It also led to the multiple injuries and operations that ended his career.

Texas declined Greer's 2003 contract option in October, making him a free agent. The Rangers, however, were interested in him coming to spring training on a minor league contract.

"Rusty had a great career," Rangers manager Buck Showalter said Sunday. "He could really show his consistency over a 162-game season. He was a great competitor and did things the right way, on and off the field."

Greer, 36, said he retired because he didn't know whether he could make it through another season physically.

Pirates' House might need shoulder surgery

BRADENTON, Fla. — Catcher J.R. House, once considered the

top prospect in the Pittsburgh Pirates' organization, faces season-ending surgery to repair tears in his right labrum and rotator cuff.

"It doesn't look good," House said Sunday. "It's something that has been bothering me for a long time. I'm looking forward to getting it fixed and hopefully I can come back better than I was before."

House said he has multiple tears in his labrum and a 30-per-cent tear in his rotator cuff. His agent, Dan Lozano, thinks surgery is inevitable and will be scheduled Tuesday or Wednesday.

The shoulder problems were detected when House took his physical before spring training.

Giambi arrives early for camp

JASON Giambi arrived in Tampa and told the Yankees he will be at Legends Field on Monday, a day before the first full-squad workout.

At a Feb. 10 news conference in New York, Giambi issued a general apology but didn't acknowledge using steroids.

Barry Bonds and Giambi testified in December 2003 before a grand jury investigating illegal steroid distribution. The San Francisco Chronicle reported in December that Giambi told the grand jury he used steroids and



Texas Rangers' Rusty Greer, 36, retired from baseball Sunday, nearly three years after playing his last major league game.

that Bonds told the grand jury he used a substance that prosecutors believe contained steroids.

"Everybody who has been named, whether it be Jason or Barry or anybody that was named in [Jose] Canseco's book, I think everybody is going to look at and have a question because the name was connected with steroids," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.



Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Jon Lieber throws during the team's spring training camp Sunday in Clearwater, Fla. Lieber played for the Yankees last season, but will now anchor a Phillies rotation that includes Vincent Padilla, Randy Wolf and Cory Lidle.

Lieber thrust into spotlight, No. 1 spot in Philly rotation

BY ROB MAADDI

The Associated Press

CLEARWATER, Fla. — When Jon Lieber wasn't pitching in big games, he had no problem escaping the spotlight in New York.

On a team that included Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez and several other stars, Lieber received little recognition — not just because his locker was hidden in the corner of the clubhouse. But when the Yankees' injury-depleted pitching staff struggled last season, Lieber was the most consistent starter under the stretch and in the playoffs.

Lieber won't be able to shy away from the attention in Philadelphia. He's expected to be the No. 1 starter on a staff that hasn't had a legitimate ace since Curt Schilling was traded from the Phillies to Arizona in 2000.

"There might be a little bit more pressure on myself this year than last year, just due to the guys who were on the ballclub last year and I was just coming back after surgery, so I don't think they were expecting a whole lot," Lieber said Sunday.

The Phillies signed the right-handed Lieber to a \$21 million, three-year contract in December, and allowed free agents Eric Milton and Kevin Millwood to go to other teams. Lieber anchors a rotation that includes former All-Stars Randy Wolf and Vicente Padilla, journeyman Cory Lidle and inconsistent former No. 1 pick Brett Myers.

In his first season following reconstructive elbow surgery, Lieber went 14-8 with a 4.33 ERA and was 1-1 with a 3.43 ERA in three starts in the postseason, when he was New York's No. 2 starter behind Mike Mussina. He was 5-0 with a 3.12 ERA in his final six starts and won seven of his last eight decisions in the regular season.

The Yankees were interested in keeping Lieber, but the Phillies made a better offer.

"I'm sure there's a lot more expected of me over here," Lieber said. "But am I going to think about it all the time? Probably not. Just going to do the best I can. I know what I'm capable of doing."

Lieber still has to make the Yankees' historic collapse in the ALCS in which they wasted a 3-0 series lead against Boston. Lieber outdueled Pedro Martinez in Game 2, allowing one run in seven innings. But he missed an opportunity to eliminate the Red Sox in Game 6, giving up four runs in 7 1/2 innings.

Lieber's best season came in 2001 when he was 20-6 with a 3.80 ERA for the Cubs. He was just 6-8 the following year and missed the entire 2003 season after undergoing ligament-replacement surgery on his right elbow.

What amazes me about Lieber is his walks. He doesn't walk many people. He throws strikes," Phillies manager Charlie Manuel said.

"He has a knack for going deep into games, throwing a lot of groundballs. You wouldn't rank him as a No. 1, but he's a guy you like to have on your staff because he can win you 20 games."

Lieber walked just 18 batters in 176 1/3 innings last year and has averaged 6.5 strikeouts and just 1.8 walks per nine innings in his career.

"I'm not a power guy. I'm not the type of pitcher who is going to go out there and pitch a shutout every game," Lieber said. "My goal is to keep the game close and give my team a chance to win. I'm not a big strikeout guy. I like my defense to work for me. It's no secret I'm going to challenge hitters and hopefully they'll get themselves out."

Henrick: 'There was a lot of fire in our hearts'

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — You could walk the length of this oval two times and be hard pressed to find one connection to the sport who wouldn't call this one fitting.

Yet even if team owner Rick Hendrick wins another five Daytona 500s every bit as exhilarating as the one that Jeff Gordon brought back to the garage Sunday, it wouldn't erase the hurt of a plane crash last fall that killed his son, Ricky, his only brother, John, and eight others who were part of the Hendrick family, or close enough to feel like kin.

But in a sport where tragedy always casts a lingering shadow, a sliver of late-afternoon light bathed Victory Lane in a warm glow and let Hendrick feel joy again for a few moments — even if he can't ever forget.

"There was a lot of fire in our hearts. Every race we come to now, I think about all those people," Hendrick said. "And this is the Super Bowl of racing, so coming down here, you always want to do well. You want to start the year off well."

"We feel like it's a way to honor those that we lost and we love and we miss. And so," he added, "sure, it's a great win."

Sitting to Hendrick's left, Gordon struggled for something to add. Hendrick knew the 33-year-old driver once labeled "Wonder Boy" was something special after watching Gordon turn a couple of laps in a Busch race at Atlanta nearly 15 years ago. They have been almost as close as father and son since.

"You know they're looking down smiling," Gordon said finally.

Jim Litke



That never kept Hendrick from also being one of the best. It's been 19 years since he won his first Daytona 500 with Geoff Bodine behind the wheel, but it remains every bit as vivid as this latest one.

"The picture that I probably treasure with Ricky more than any other... was when he was on my shoulders here back when Geoff won," Hendrick recalled.

That was the start of the kid's apprenticeship. Ricky was never interested in the first empire that Rick built, turning a single car dealership into one of the nation's largest retail chains. The plan was always for Ricky to take over more and more of the show, so the old man could go down to the Florida Keys more often and do some fishing. Toward that end, the two of them oversaw the building of a state-of-the-art facility atop a hill in Charlotte, N.C., their side-by-side offices overlooking the rest of Hendrick Motorsports complex.

Everything was on course when the plane went down in October, en route to Martinsville, Va., to join the rest of the team for a race. After that, Rick thought about quitting. Slowly, he sum-

moned the strength to get back to work, leaving the office alongside his empty to remind him of the dream they both planned to fulfill.

His team rededicated itself even faster. Jimmie Johnson pulled into the winner's circle in Hampton, Ga., the very next week, the picture of his 10 lost friends splashed across the hood of the car. He and Gordon roared through the rest of the season as though on a mission, finishing second and third, respectively, to Kurt Busch in the closest-ever race for the NASCAR season title. Then came the start of this one.

"I'm happy for Rick. It's a great win," owner Jack Roush, who claimed second at Daytona with Busch and is Hendrick's toughest rival in NASCAR, said on his way back to the garage.

"Partly because of the tough things he's been through. But he deserved it, too, because he had the best car and a great strategy — the same things he always does."

Even with a fast car at his command, and the patience and experience to know when to pounce, it still took some steady nerves for Gordon to get past Dale Earnhardt Jr., who was leading until the end and wound up finishing third. Great as his disappointment must have been, Earnhardt let good go about seeing the "W" wind up in Hendrick's column. After losing his father in a last-lap crash at the Daytona 500 just four years ago, Junior understands how it can be to get back to the racetrack.

"I don't know if you could call me human," Earnhardt said, "and not feel something for Ricky."

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist at the Associated Press. Write to him at jlitke@ap.org



Team owner Rick Hendrick, right, talking with Busch Series driver Brian Vickers at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C., on Oct. 9, 2003, was one of 10 people affiliated with Hendrick Motorsports to die in an October plane crash en route to Martinsville, Va.

Adding Gretzky, Lemieux to mix made NHL mess worse

BY IRA PODELL
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — With Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux inside the NHL labor mess, a terrible situation became a Great debacle instead of a Super save.

The sport's biggest stars came up short at the bargaining table on Saturday, and the season was wrecked twice and for all.

It was first wiped out Wednesday, killed off when Commissioner Gary Bettman said the differences over a salary cap between the league and the players' association wouldn't allow for hockey until at least the fall.

Neither side was really ready to let the season go.

Enter the Great Gretzky of Phoenix, and Pittsburgh's Super Mario.

Three days after hockey Armageddon, there was suddenly new life and new hope that the season could be saved. Gretzky and Lemieux — superstars turned executives — low-balled the union, helped get the sides back together and then joined the fray.

There was no way these guys would fall, right? But they did. And they never really had a chance.

When Gretzky and Lemieux got to the table Saturday, it be-

Commentary

came clear quickly that rumors of a done deal were false, as both sides emphatically Friday, and an agreement was not on the radar screen.

If there was a shot at a deal with a \$45 million salary cap, we'll never know. The discussion over a number never came up — much to the dismay of Nos. 99 and 66.

This time, the news hit doubly hard. How was it possible that the worst possible scenario took a steeper turn downward in the same week? The NHL was already dealing with the black eye of being the first major North American sports league to lose an entire season to a labor dispute. It took only three more days to damage the reputation of two Hall of Famers.

Only on the hockey world was happy that the season was lost, but many were prepared for what was previously unthinkable. It became clear during the past year how far apart the sides were. What the roller coaster of the three days before the final meeting was cruel and unusual for the die-hard fan and for Gretzky and

Lemieux. The hard part was already overcome Monday when the NHL dropped its demand for a 10 percent cut in player salaries between league revenues and player costs, and the union said it would then accept a salary cap.

Angry letters containing "final offers" were traded Tuesday night. The NHL was dug in at a hard cap of \$42.5 million, and the players wouldn't budge off their counterproposal of a \$49 million soft cap.

NHLPA executive director Bob Goodenow told Bettman he wouldn't hear from the players' side again — and Goodenow kept to his word during the final 12 hours before the season was canceled.

But Bettman left the door open more than once during his end-of-the-season news conference. He said he wouldn't mind the endorsement of a signed announcement hours later that a deal was reached, that is if the union accepted his



Lemieux

take-it-or-leave-it offer from Tuesday.

He didn't even rule out an accord with a salary cap of \$45 million, even though he said teams would be stretched to

stretch to that level and that there was no time to negotiate.

Yet, there was.

The NHL called players' association president Trevor Linden to get him back to the table. Linden turned to Gretzky and Lemieux to become hockey's version of Eric Gagne — the closers of the deal.

The cap was always the issue, even after it was accepted by the players. The debate of hard cap vs. soft cap was never resolved, nor was how the limit would fluctuate over the course of the six-year deal.

Players' association senior director Ted Saksin was surprised the NHL wanted to keep a hard number the same for the length of the agreement.

What was just a \$6.5 million cap gap, suddenly became an unbridgeable ocean of difference.

"I can't see anything worse than what they put on the table," Saksin said.

There was no burst of speed, no nifty pass, no incredible shot into the top corner of the net that Gretzky or Lemieux could use to get the league out of this.

Now that the big guns didn't pull off this season save, there is nowhere to turn, at least not for a while. Don't expect any negotiations anytime soon.

"While no new meetings are scheduled, we remain committed to continue working through the process until a new agreement can be reached," NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly said.

It would benefit the league greatly if a deal could be reached in time to hold the June draft and to begin a marketing blitz for the NHL's relationship next season. But the incentive for players to make a deal now is gone. They aren't to be paid again until October.

So the hockey calendar looks like this: a board of governors meeting and a players powwow within the next few weeks and maybe a court battle during the summer.

There is no hope anymore for this season. As for next season, that's anyone's guess.

SPORTS

Finishing with flash

'Shocked' Jeff Gordon wins third Daytona by holding off Busch, '04 winner Earnhardt

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Jeff Gordon was helplessly socked in behind Tony Stewart when along came Dale Earnhardt Jr. with a fresh burst of speed.

By the time the wild battle royale between NASCAR's biggest stars drew a checkered flag Sunday, even Gordon admitted he was "shocked" to be leading en route to his third Daytona 500 victory.

If the start of the season was this good, imagine what the ending could be like.

Building on the momentum of last season's closest-ever championship race, NASCAR opened this year with the rivalry everybody in the sport wants to see.

Gordon nosed to the front with the fourth lead change in the last nine laps. The four-time

NASCAR champion moved into some very fast company, joining Richard Petty (7), Cale Yarborough (4) and Bobby Allison and Dale Jarrett (3) with three or more Daytona victories.

Gordon first won it in 1997 and again in 1999.

"I don't know how to put that in perspective. It's overwhelming to me," Gordon said. "I was thrilled with the two that I had.

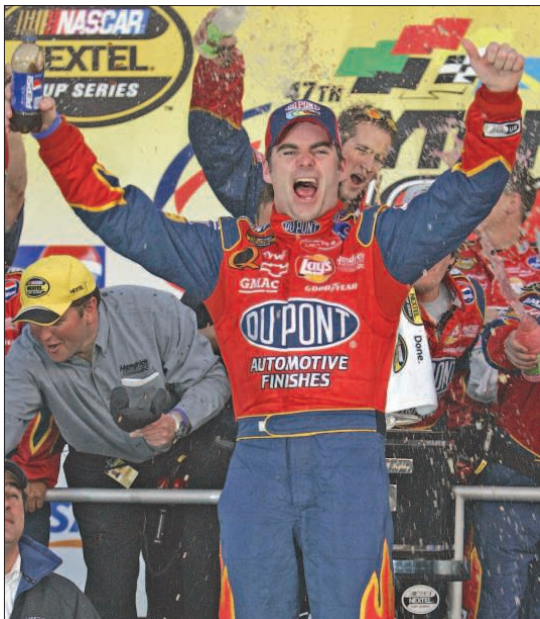
Just one is enough to make your career."

But this could be the start of another magical season. Gordon is still chasing Petty and the late Dale Earnhardt's record seven season titles, and NASCAR would like nothing more than to see Gordon and Junior — its two most marketable drivers — go down to the wire week after week.

SEE GORDON ON PAGE 35



Scott wins 36-hole
Nissan Open in playoff,
Page 33



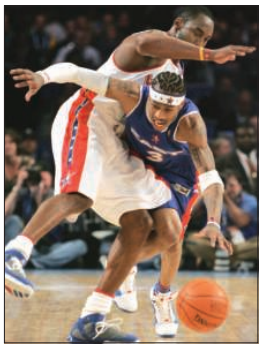
Nextel Cup driver Jeff Gordon celebrates his victory in the Daytona 500 at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., on Sunday. Gordon won his third title in the event by prevailing in a wild finish. AP



Iverson, O'Neal lead East Stars past West's best

East All-Star Allen Iverson keeps dribbling despite colliding with Kobe Bryant. Iverson earned MVP honors with his 15 points 10 assists and five-steals, but Shaquille O'Neal was the most popular player, giving hugs to every All-Star — except Bryant — dancing during his pregame introduction and showing off a cell phone imbedded in his size 22 shoe. The East beat the West in the All-Star Game in Denver. See story, Page 30

AP



Rodriguez has little response to ripping by Red Sox
Page 32



Redick's career-high 38 points lift Duke over Wake
Page 31



Injured Pujols still shows up early for Cards' camp Page 33

